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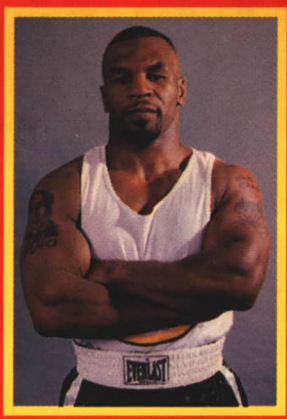

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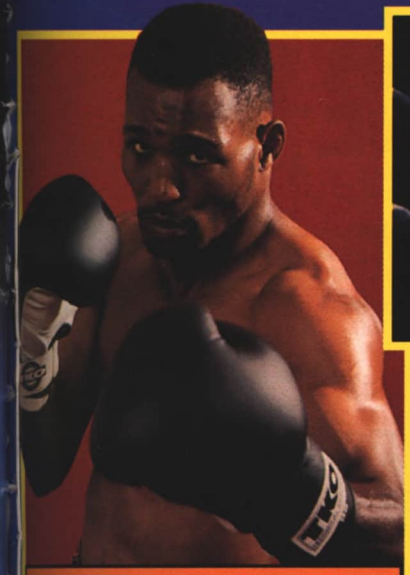

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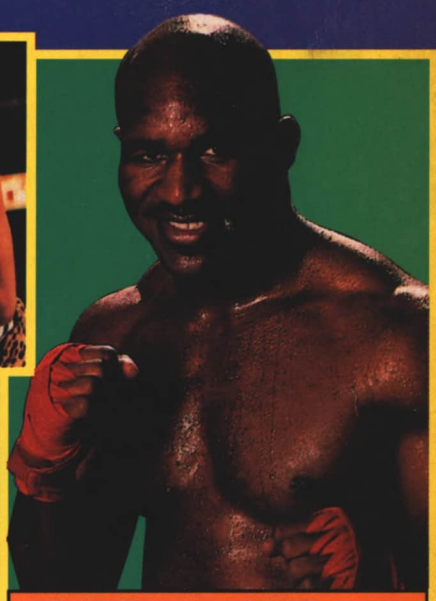

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June 1998

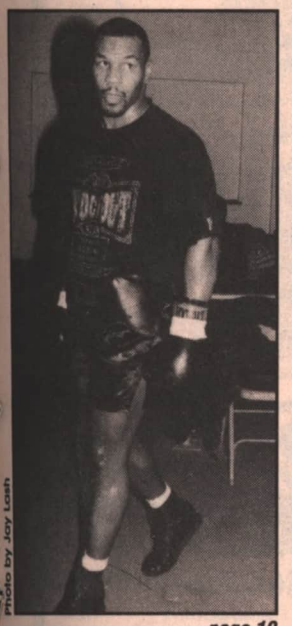

Photo by Jay Lash

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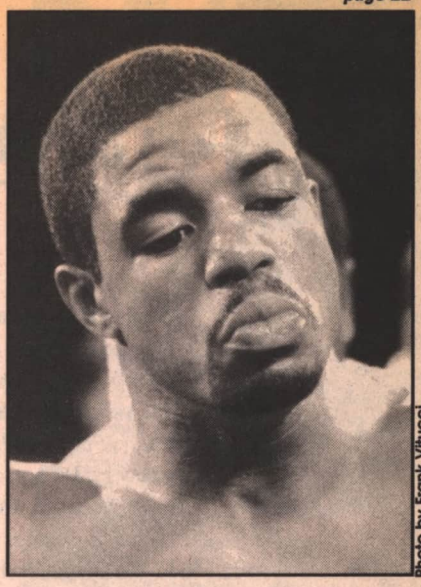

Photo by Frank Vitucci

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Photo by Frank Vitucci

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Evander Holyfield by Al Bello/Allsport
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Oscar De La Hoya courtesy of Top Rank
Felix Trinidad by Jay Lash
Hamed-Johnson by Tom Casino/Showtime

RINGSIDE

Boxing is more than what happens inside the ring. That's usually the good part, and is addressed in detail in THE RING'S annual "The State Of The Game" report (page 28). But what about all the rest, the various aspects and influences that combine to determine the health of the sport? Is boxing headed for the doldrums, sailing into a new golden age, or simply maintaining the status quo?

It all depends on whether or not the positives outweigh the negatives, and in boxing, it usually comes down to a split decision between those two extremes. We all know what the negatives are. Basically, we've been complaining about the same things for years: split titles, rigged ratings, parasitic governing bodies, the lack of coverage in the mainstream media, blah, blah, blah. But what about the good stuff? Surely, there's got to be something to feel upbeat about.

One of the brightest spots is television's enduring love affair with the Sweet Science. Despite a dearth of action on free TV, boxing continues to thrive at every level of cable-TV. Traditionally, we've looked at this move away from free TV as a bad thing, because regardless of the explosive growth of cable, its audience base is still significantly smaller. And there's no denying that because of this trend it's much tougher for fighters to become well-known to the general populace. But there's another way of looking at the situation.

Except for perhaps two or three fights per year (if we're lucky), boxing is essentially supported by an ardent cult following, folks like you and me who are willing to go out of our way to follow the sport we love. Cable-television, particularly PPV, is the perfect vehicle for getting this specialty product to consumers willing to pay for it. Approximately two million homes bought the second Evander Holyfield-Mike Tyson bout, creating over $200-million in revenue. If the bout had been shown on prime time network TV, the audience would have been at least 10 times greater, but there's no way they could have sold $200-million worth of commercials. Conversely, low-budget fights that would never have been considered worthy of broadcasting during the heyday of weekend afternoon boxing in the 1970s and '80s currently find homes somewhere on cable's vast menu. The bottom line: There's more boxing on TV today than at anytime in history.

So the next time the mailman brings your cable bill, instead of recoiling in horror, thank your lucky stars there's so much boxing for you to spend your hard-earned money on. Because whether you want to accept the fact or not, TV is the best friend boxing has.

***

While on the subject of television, how many readers caught the *Ally McBeal* episode about boxing? The cutting-edge program put a very interesting spin on the Sweet Science, daring to explore the relationship between boxing, violence, and sex. British promoter Frank Maloney recently got into a spot of hot water when he said, "Everybody knows sex and violence go together." And while Frank obviously went a bit over the top, the reason his politically incorrect remark caused such an uproar was because it cut very close to the bone. A magazine like THE RING, which is intended for boxing fans of all ages, is probably not the appropriate place for a detailed discussion of the subject, but for those interested, the *Ally McBeal* episode is highly recommended. Parental guidance strongly advised.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

Volume 77, No. 6 June 1998

The RING

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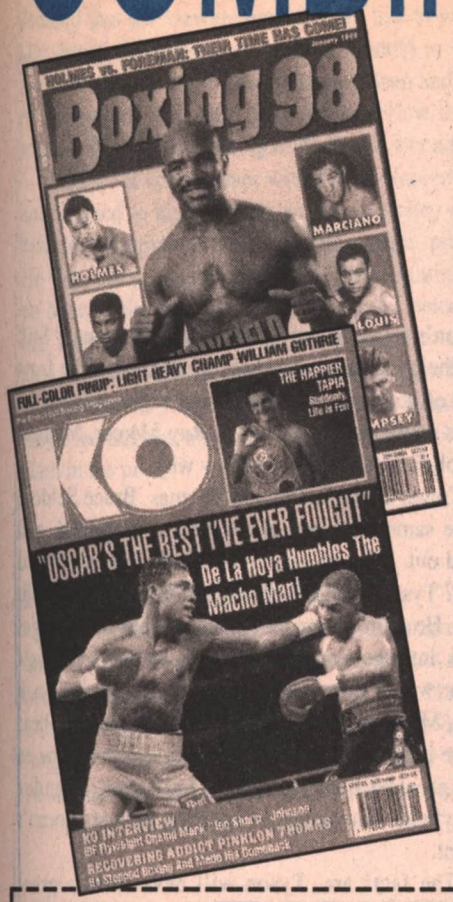

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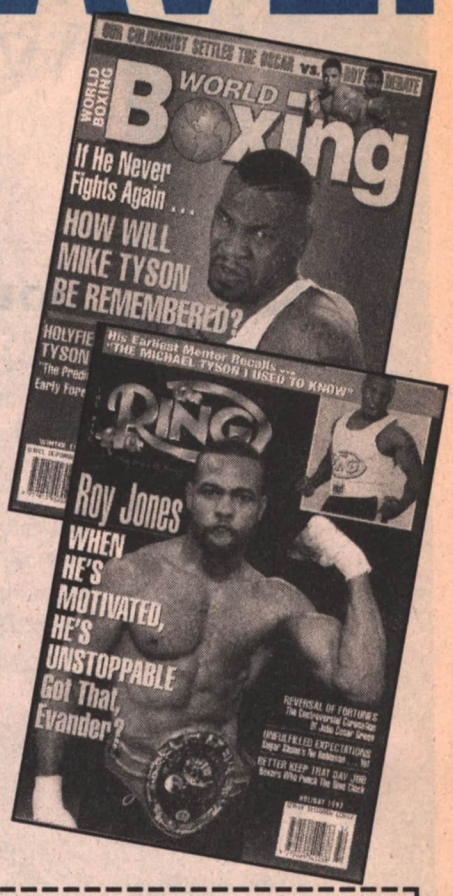

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COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

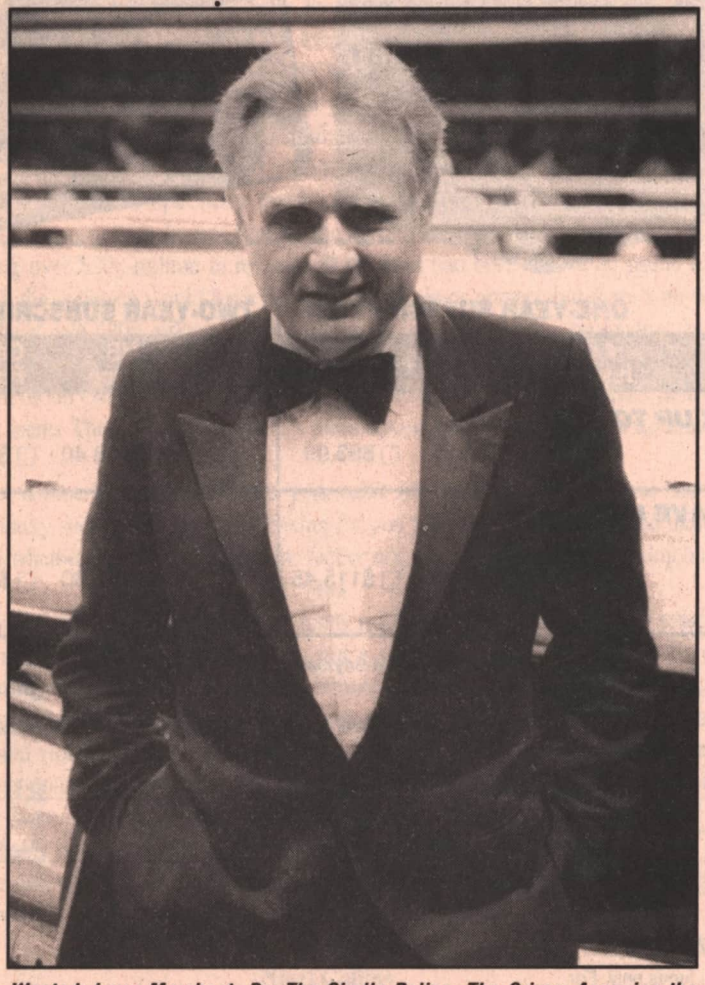
DOESN'T LIKE MIKE

I am writing in reference to Mr. Donny Hamilton's letter in your February 1998 issue ("Still Likes Mike"), in which he says, "Tyson was maybe the greatest heavyweight of all-time." The facts are as follows: Mike Tyson was a great heavyweight of our time, but when faced with adversity, he never responded. Plus, Mike always ducked the class of the division, such as Ray Mercer, Michael Moorer, George Foreman, and, of course, Evander Holyfield, and now we know why.

Sure, Tyson beat Michael Spinks, Frank Bruno, Trevor Berbick, Pinklon Thomas, Bruce Seldon, and many others. But, Mr. Hamilton, are they in the same class as Lennox Lewis, Holyfield, and Foreman? Tyson and Don King never wanted to find out. Why do you think all of those scheduled bouts with Holyfield a few years back were canceled? Tyson thought he was getting another softy in Buster Douglas, and we know what happened there. He didn't have the championship heart to get back into the ring with Douglas to prove the first fight was a fluke, as he insisted. So again, I ask you, Mr. Hamilton, who has Mike Tyson ever beat to be even mentioned in the same breath as one of the greatest heavyweights of all-time, Evander Holyfield? Knocking out sparring partners doesn't count.

The facts are, Tyson will never beat a great champion. He'll come back and face Vaughn Bean and Frans Botha. And probably win. But please, sir, don't ever mention Mike Tyson as possibly the greatest heavyweight of all-time.

BRIAN PETROW
Woodbridge, NJ



Wanted: Larry Merchant. By: The Simile Police. The Crime: Annoying the boxing public. That's the view of reader Ian Faring, at least.

SIMILES LEAVE NO SMILES

Upon reading your February '98 article, "Mad As Hell: The Things That Drive Boxing Fans Crazy," I began to think of the splinters underneath my thumbnail that weren't mentioned. First off, and without question, the most aggravating thing about boxing is Larry Merchant. (George Foreman is an angel compared to Merchant.) Larry's color commentary consists of nothing but enigmatic similes. "So and so is like an old yellow tissue at the bottom of your grandmother's purse ... blah, blah, blah. Whereas so and so is like a heaping pile of Lego's ... blah, blah, blah." There should be metaphor and simile police waiting for him at every fight with duct tape in their holsters.

Another item is Sean O'Grady during the fight interviews with the cornermen on *Tuesday Night Fights*. Does anyone see that 90 percent of the time, the trainer is irritated by Sean's questions? It's not Sean's fault, mind you. I find him to be one of the best commentators in the business, but some executive genius' fault, who decided that the viewers would really like to watch the fight (usually during the make-it or break-it rounds) in the upper right corner of the television, while cramming Sean and the trainer in a box in the bottom left. Hell, why not interview the fighters between rounds; they've got nothing to do for 60 seconds.

Lastly, I'll end my rant with Prince Naseem Hamed. I watched and listened to his last fight vs. Kevin Kelley on a scrambled TV, catching glimpses of bent diagonal images, praying he'd get beat. He won, but proved to me that: a) Back-lighting those ears for half an hour, while dancing behind a curtain before a fight, is a bad, bad idea; b) Someone in his camp forgot to tell him you need a chin to have a lasting career in boxing; and c) He doesn't stand a chance against Angel Manfredy, Arturo Gatti, and Oscar De La Hoya, or anyone else he's been rumored to fight. Can you say flash in the pan?

IAN FARING
Warren, RI

PRINCELY LOVE

I just finished watching the Naseem Hamed-Kevin Kelley fight on HBO, and I was very excited afterward. Kevin Kelley did pose some problems for Hamed early on, but Hamed's sheer power overcame any difficulty he may have had. Too bad it didn't last longer. "The Prince" will take this country by storm. Knockout power in both hands is a thrill to see at that weight class.

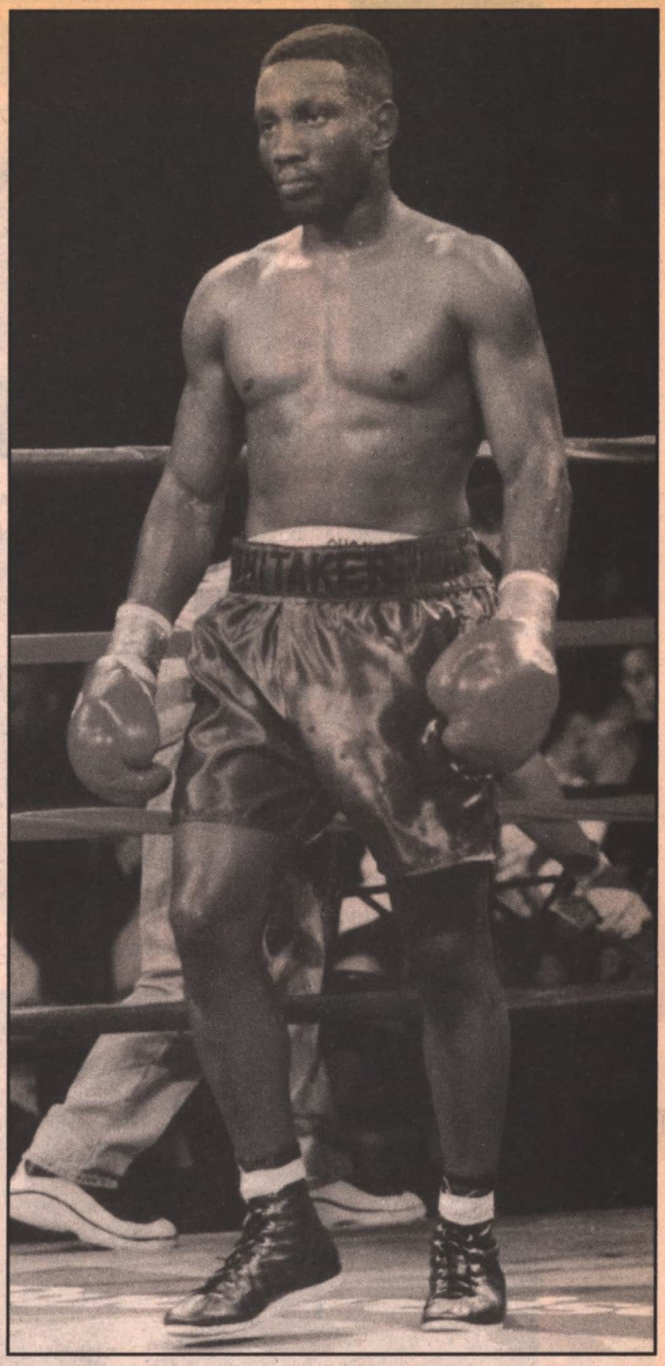
DAVID BARATH
Montgomery, AL

WHITAKER DEBATE

Pernell "Sweet Pea" Whitaker is the best welterweight in the game. All the sports analysts like to talk negatively about him, saying that he's getting too old and that he doesn't have the power of all the other welterweights. Whitaker is the top defensive fighter in the game. This spring, he is scheduled to fight Ike Quartey. When Whitaker and Quartey meet, I am positive Whitaker will be the new WBA champion of the world. Then, this drivel put out by the analysts will mean nothing. Oh, and let's not even say anything about Oscar De-La-You-Know-Who. He doesn't even want to give Whitaker a rematch. Whitaker is the top welterweight in the world.

ARTHUR LEWIS
Oakland, CA

I'm writing to state my opinion regarding Jeff Ryan's "Ryan Out Loud" column in the February 1998 issue ("Some Unfinished Biz, Wiz?"). How Mr. Ryan could urge Oscar De La Hoya to give Pernell Whitaker a rematch and to insinuate that Whitaker won the last fight is beyond me. No one wants to see a rematch. The welterweight division has plenty of good fighters for De La Hoya to fight. We do not need a repeat of the first De La Hoya-Whitaker fight, and, Mr. Ryan, why do you take to task De La Hoya for not giving Whitaker a chance? Remember, Whitaker dodged Quartey and Trinidad for several years.



The current standing of former four-division world champion Pernell "Sweet Pea" Whitaker is debated by readers Arthur Lewis (pro-Whitaker) and Rudy Gonzalez (anti-Whitaker).

For a long time, I've been disgusted with Whitaker and all the so-called experts who consider him a fighter. If what he does is fighting, the sport would never survive. He holds, grabs, runs, and does everything but fight. Then, when his opponent is thoroughly disgusted, he'll slap (not punch) two or three times, just enough to fool the judges. His fights are extremely boring. His only desire is to survive. The gall of the man to truly think he is a pound-for-pound great.

RUDY GONZALEZ
Tucumcari, NM ■

ROUND ONE

TUESDAY NIGHT: LADIES' NIGHT?

In 1996, executives of USA Network got together to discuss whether or not to feature women's boxing on their highly successful *Tuesday Night Fights*. To find out what fans wanted, the network produced a pro/con piece on women's boxing and conducted a telephone poll. Between 60,000 and 70,000 calls were received, and an overwhelming number—85 percent—gave the idea a positive response.

That was all the reason the network needed to sponsor a three-round women's tournament, with the winner crowned USA/International Female Boxers Association featherweight champion. Brad Jacobs, the programming consultant for *Tuesday Night Fights*, is pleased that the network made what appears to be a popular choice.

According to Jacobs, the women's tournament drew such a favorable reaction, USA is seriously thinking about hosting another, possibly in March. The championship fight, won by Deborah Nichols via unpopular split decision over Cynthia Prouder at Philadelphia's legendary Blue Horizon on February 3, garnered a 2.3 rating, the highest for the show since Larry Holmes fought on July 29, 1997.

Promoter J Russell Peltz, a hard-core purist who had previously resisted staging women's bouts, was pleasantly surprised by the women's drawing power.

Photo by Frank Vitucci

Tracy Byrd and Jackie Kallen congratulate champion Nichols

"The last 200 tickets for the show were snapped up within 48 hours of USA's announcement that the tournament finals would be at the Blue Horizon," said Peltz.

Both first-round tournament bouts, aired live on January 6 and January 13, received only a 1.7 rating, down from the show's 1.9 average last year. The network, however, has seen an increase in the number of viewers tuning in early to see the women, according to Jacobs, instead of waiting for the main event.

"Overall, we're very happy with the tournament," said Jacobs. "I think it's certainly been very popular with the fans and has created a little excitement. Will it ever reach the million-dollar paydays of men's boxing? I don't think so. It's very hard to determine whether it'll be successful from a ratings standpoint, but I think it's going to come into its own."

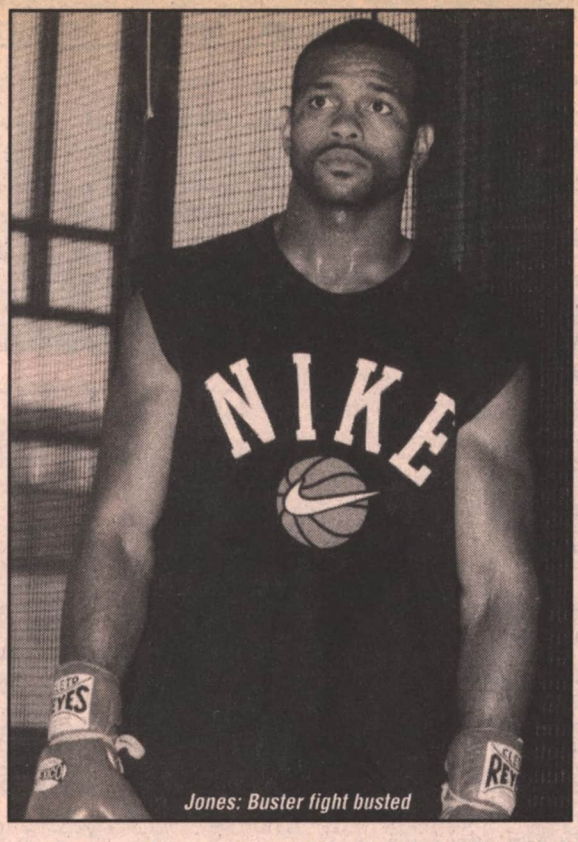
Jacobs feels that women's boxing is still in its embryonic stage, and that the future could hold anything from an all-women's card on USA, to simply seeing more women's matches on the undercard.

"I wouldn't say I'm surprised by the positive response we've received," Jacobs said. "I would have been surprised if it was negative feedback. I don't know if viewers are prepared to see a complete show of women on *Tuesday Night Fights*, but I think that time will come."

—Joseph Santoliquito

YOU CAN'T LOSE IF YOU DON'T FIGHT

Just like Mike Tyson, Roy Jones remains one of the top stories in boxing despite—or perhaps because of—his inactivity. On the January 31 HBO *Boxing After Dark* broadcast of the Bernard Hopkins-Simon Brown middleweight title fight, color commentator Jones led off the show not by discussing the evening's matchup, but by talking about himself. And why not? Jones' fight with Buster Douglas, that had, according to Top Rank, been finalized the previous day, was a much hotter topic of conversation than anything on the card in Atlantic City that night.



Jones: Buster fight busted

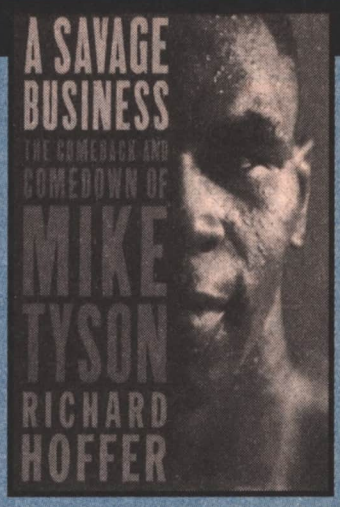
But before you had time to turn to the guy next to you and make a clever comment about the ridiculous jacket Jones was wearing, he put a halt to all the chatter. Not only did Jones refute the prevailing belief that the Douglas fight had been set, but he began making excuses on the spot for why such a fight wouldn't be in his best interest. Yes, 50 pounds is a lot of weight to give up, but wasn't that the point? Jones was supposed to make $6-million to fight a no-lose battle, where a defeat would be perfectly justifiable and a victory would be a spectacular entry into the heavyweight ranks.

Strangely enough, it was Jones' father, Roy Sr.—from whom Jones was believed to have been estranged for several years—who convinced the WBC light heavyweight champion to pull out of the fight with Douglas. A press release revealed that Murad Muhammad, Jones' promoter, had told Top Rank President Bob Arum that the elder Jones had insisted to his son that he was "risking his life" against Douglas.

So where does this leave Jones, who hasn't fought since August 7, 1997? A Douglas fight is about as lucrative an option as Jones has, and a perfect way to see whether he has what it takes to contend for a heavyweight title. A fighter who can't be motivated by money, challenges, or titles is a fighter we can expect to remain on the sidelines a while longer.

—Eric Raskin

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF



It probably won't do much to counteract Richard Hoffer's reputation as a boxing writer who hates boxing, but *A Savage Business: The Comeback And Comedown Of Mike Tyson* (Simon & Schuster, $23) is an entertaining, insightful, and occasionally brilliant account of the con job perpetrated by "Team Tyson" to restore the former heavyweight champion to the throne after his release from prison in 1995.

Hoffer is at his best in his straight reportage of the events orchestrated by Don King to re-create the myth of the invincible Tyson when, in fact, the boxer who walked out of the Indiana Youth Center was "a first stage rocket, a sky-splintering missile long since spent, and all that was left was the orbiting shield of his celebrity." The chapter dealing with "Hurricane" Peter McNeeley and his "cocoon of horror" is a howler (although given its subject, how could it be anything else?)

When the former *KO* columnist now with *Sports Illustrated* turns pedant in an attempt to explicate the meaning of the sport he calls in his opening acknowledgments "always impossible to justify," the result is less edifying and there is a hint of high-handedness in Hoffer's treatment of the sport that helps put groceries on his table. But covering the carnival that has been heavyweight boxing in the '90s might do that to anyone, and Hoffer gives its barkers and geeks exactly what they have coming (and in the case of a few of them—e.g., Bruce Seldon—maybe even less.) As a primer on contemporary boxing, *A Savage Business* belongs alongside Thomas Hauser's *Black Lights* and Monteith Illingsworth's bio of Tyson.

—Pete Ehrmann

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
1-26-98	Edgar Ruiz KO 7 Larry Dixon	FOXSN	w	B-	A	B-
	In battle of prospects, Ruiz' power the difference					
1-31-98	John Ruiz KO 11 Tony Tucker	Show	h	C	B	C+
	Ruiz survives some scary moments to topple ancient Tucker					
1-31-98	**William Joppy W 12 Julio Cesar Green**	**Show**	**WBA m**	**A**	**A-**	**B**
	This is the way the first one should have turned out					
1-31-98	David Reid W 8 Robert Frazier	HBO	jm	B	A+	A-
	Reid passes his sternest test yet; Frazier no pushover					
1-31-98	Hasim Rahman W 12 Jesse Ferguson	HBO	h	B-	B+	C-
	A snoozer; we expected more from both of these guys					
1-31-98	**Bernard Hopkins KO 6 Simon Brown**	**HBO**	**IBF m**	**C+**	**C-**	**D**
	Why was this fight made? Faded Brown never in it					
2-3-98	Terrance Lewis KO 5 Darroll Wilson	USA	h	C	A-	B+
	Lewis lands the big one first in meeting of weak-chinned bombers					
2-3-98	Oba Carr KO 4 Jesse Gutierrez	FOXSN	jm	B-	C	C+
	Veteran Carr stays busy with easy win over inexperienced opponent					
2-6-98	**Shane Mosley KO 8 Demetrio Ceballos**	**HBO**	**WBC l**	**A**	**B+**	**B**
	Ceballos no match for "Sugar Shane's" speed and power					
2-6-98	**Reggie Johnson KO 5 William Guthrie**	**HBO**	**IBF lh**	**B+**	**A-**	**A**
	A single right hook chills Guthrie; where has Johnson been?					
2-8-98	**Enrique Sanchez W 12 Rafael Del Valle**	**ESPN**	**WBA jf**	**A**	**A-**	**B**
	Sanchez too fast, too strong, too young for veteran Del Valle					
2-10-98	Antwun Echols KO 9 Brian Barbosa	USA	m	B+	A	A-
	Echols rallies to knock Barbosa out of ring and title picture					
2-10-98	Anthony Jones KO 1 Alex Bunema	USA	jm	B	B	B
	Vet Jones continues comeback by blitzing unbeaten prospect					

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime

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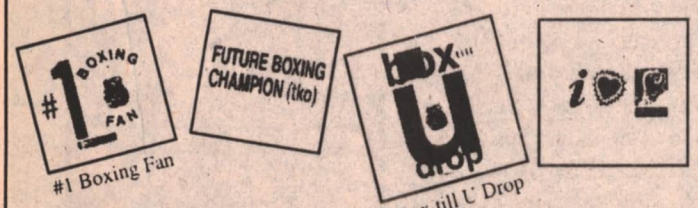

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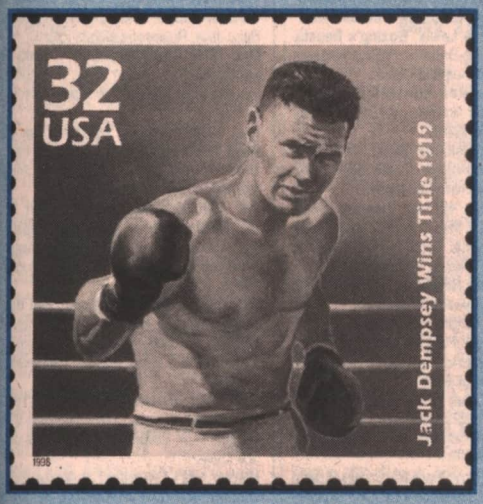
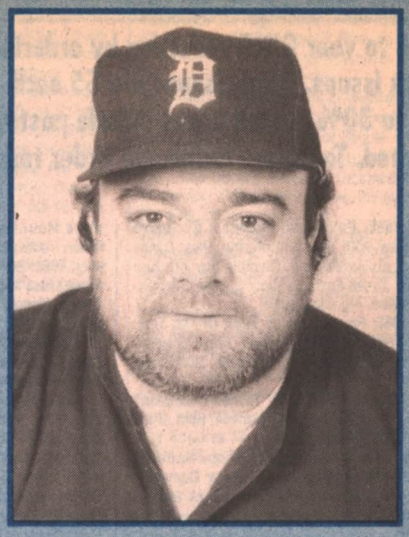
OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Washington, D.C., middleweight **Reuben Bell**, 24, was shot and killed on February 5 in the lobby of Washington Hospital Center's Cancer Institute by an unidentified assailant. Bell was diagnosed in January with colon cancer, and was arriving at the hospital for radiation and chemotherapy treatments when he was gunned down. Bell's final fight was a loss last September against former world champion **Simon Brown** ... On January 27, the U.S. Postal Service unveiled a **Jack Dempsey** stamp at the Manassa Opera House in Dempsey's hometown of Manassa, Colorado, to represent the decade of the 1910s as part of their "Celebrate The Century" program. "We are thrilled Jack Dempsey's legacy is being commemorated by a stamp," said **BoJean Sellers**, curator of the Jack Dempsey Museum ... Footwear company Pony is embarking on a new marketing campaign called "Heritage Of Sports," centering around six former Pony athletes, including former heavyweight champion **Joe Frazier** ... The Boxing Writers Association of America announced their award winners for 1997 in January, with **Evander Holyfield** taking top honors for the second consecutive year, edging out **Oscar De La Hoya** for the Fighter of the Year distinction. Other winners included **Emanuel Steward** for Trainer of the Year and **Pat Lynch**, who handles **Arturo Gatti**, for Manager of the Year ... **Joe "Buffalo" Martin**, a respected trainer and manager who also worked as an IBF Intercontinental promoter in Europe, died at the age of 38 in a car accident January 5 in Spain. Martin worked with **Julio Cesar Chavez** and **Azumah Nelson**, among others.



Dempsey stamp unveiled



Martin: Killed in auto wreck

THE PUNCHLINES

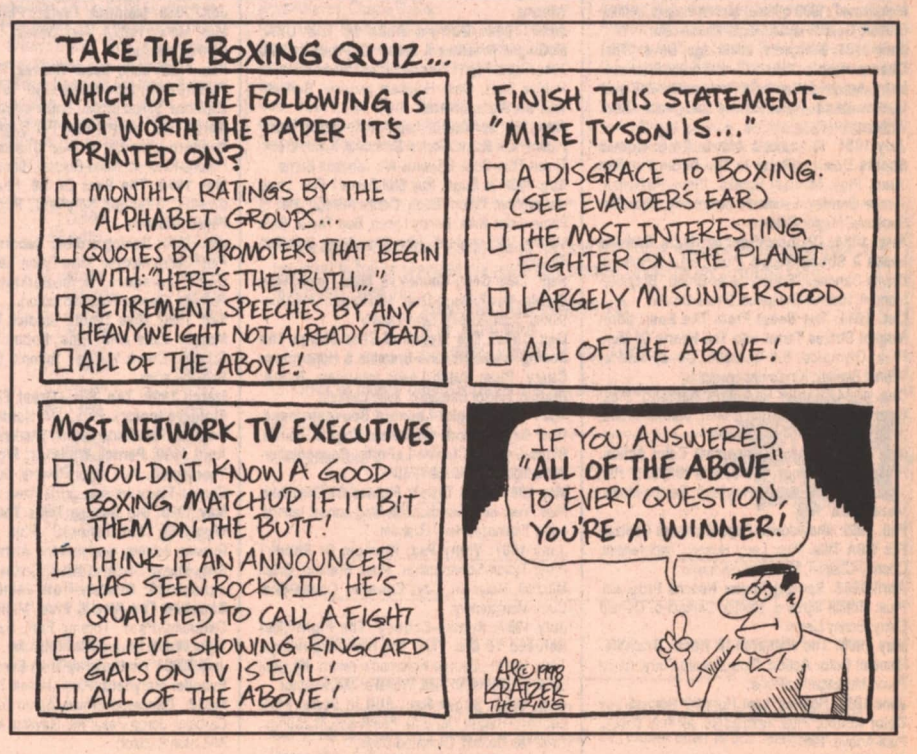
"Mike Tyson can't fire me. It's just a minor domestic family dispute."

—Don King, responding to rumors that Tyson had fired and physically assaulted him

"That was crazy. He could've tripped and gotten injured and lost us the whole fight."

—Phil Borgia, trainer of Kevin Kelley, reflecting on Naseem Hamed's somersault over the top rope prior to their December fight

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



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Jan. 1983: Pryor-Arguello: Fight Of The Year. Plus: Frank "Animal" Fletcher, Dwight Braxton-Michael Spinks preview, ring deaths, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1983: Michael Dokes: Tainted Champion? Plus: Howard Cosell, Ray Mancini, Bum of the Month Club, Chacon-Limon.

April 1983: Randall "Tex" Cobb: Not Just Another Pretty Face. Plus: Hector Camacho, Carlos Monzon, Bob Foster, Charley Burley, Scypion-Fletcher, Mayweather-Serrano, Stanley Ketchel.

May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

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Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, And Future. Plus: Hagler-Duran, Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler, Hearns-Sutherland.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: Olympic Special: Mark Breland Leads A Strong Squad. Plus: Leonard-Howard, Davila-Sanchez, Bonecrusher-Bruno, Bramble-Mancini, Hatcher-Bumphus, Garza-Orozco.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, boxing's best, James Broad, Julian Jackson, Pinklon Thomas.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Chavez, Tyson, Tubbs, Sullivan, great first rounds.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Truth Williams, Tyrell Biggs, Greg Richardson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Paul-Blake, Witherspoon-Bonecrusher, Berbick-Bey, Pinklon Thomas.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

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Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

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July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook The Boxing World. Rosario-Bramble & Honeyghan-Curry. Plus: Butch Lewis interview, Buster Drayton, Hector Camacho, Jake LaMotta.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Rocky Lockridge & Roger Mayweather, Panama, Tony Burton, Chavez-Rosario, Gervacio-Espinoza, Vaca-Honeyghan.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

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Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray Is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: Carlos Monzon, Mike Tyson, Leonard-Duran, Daniel Zaragoza, Nunn-Barkley, Whitaker-Ramirez, George Foreman (color).

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker: Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Tiger Flowers, Duran-Leonard, Chavez-Taylor preview, Jorge Paez, Ali-Cooper.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Aug. 1990: Chavez: His Greatness Confirmed ... Is He The Best Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, John L. Sullivan & Mike Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Cus D'Amato, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: Rocky Graziano—Thanks For The Memories. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Junior Jones, Mike Tyson, Chris Eubank, Wolgast-Nelson, Hall of Fame.

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman. Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Bruce Seldon, best chins, Sullivan-Kilrain (color), Azumah Nelson, LaStarza.

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV—Now You'll Pay! Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison in *Rocky V*, Reggie Tuur, Chiquita Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis.

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ, But ... Plus: Dempsey-Firpo, Charles Murray, Khaosai Galaxy, Nunn-Curry, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Tyson-Stewart, James Leija, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, Moore-Bassey.

May 1991: All-Frazier I: 20 Years Late, Still The Fight Of The Century (color). Plus: fighting at home, Mark McPherson, George Costner, Rolando Pascua, Tony Canzoneri.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness—Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech, overrated/underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Leonard-Hearns I, heavyweight computer tournament, Ali portrait (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

May 1992: James Toney—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Myung Woo Yuh, Khaosai Galaxy, Rocky Graziano, Billy Soose, Roy Jones, James Warring, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: What Now? Boxing Without Mike Tyson. Plus: Buck Smith, Liston-Foreman, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder, Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Benny Lynch, Tony DeMarco, Tyson centerfold (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Nov. 1992: Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Morrison-Hipp, Canizales-Chandler, Chavez-Camacho preview, Australia Best of Nation, Tyson speaks from prison, Corbett-Sullivan (color), Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown.

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

May 1993: Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Title: Is He Good Enough *Now?* Plus: Carbajal-Gonzalez preview, Lennox Lewis, THE RING Poll, Freddie Pendleton.

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Oct. 1993: Tommy Morrison: Good Enough To Beat Big George, But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Mike Capriano, Billy Conn-Joe Louis, All-Time Top 10: Puerto Rico, Charles Murray.

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

May 1994 (92-Page Special) Division-By-Division: The Greatest Fighters Of All-Time. Plus: Virgil Hill & Orlando Canizales, Kostya Tszyu, James Toney, What If ... Dempsey vs. Wills.

June 1994: Moorer-Holyfield: Slugfest Or Stinker? Plus: Terry Norris, Paul Pender, Randall-Chavez I, Gonzales-Carbajal II, kickboxing.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

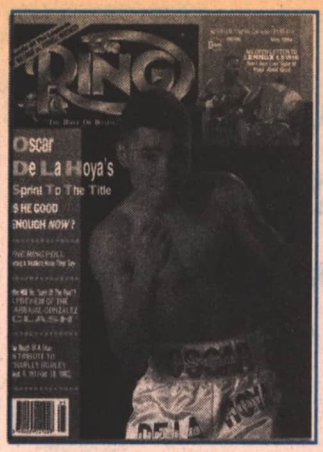
Nov. 1994: With Lewis Fighting Bowe ... Is Michael Moorer's Career Off-Target? Plus: Wayne McCullough, Hall of Fame, Alejandro Lavorante, Rocky Marciano, Paz-Duran, Injuries (part I), What If ... Pedroza vs. Sanchez.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Jan. 1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

June 1995: (92-Page Special): Foreman Frowns Upon The Age Gap: "I Don't Think Tyson Should Fight Anyone But Me." Plus: Least deserving heavyweight challengers, Carlos Monzon, Kostya Tszyu.



May 1993

July 1995: Pernell Whitaker: *The Ring* Makes "Pound-For-Pound" An Official Title. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Ike Quartey, Benn-McClellan, TV prospects, Hector Acero-Sanchez, Harry Matthews, What If ... Robinson-Burley.

Aug. 1995: Can Tyson Go From Great To All-Time Great? Plus: Antonio Barrera, Collins-Eubanks, Johnny Paychek, McCall-Holmes.

Oct. 1995: (92-Page Special): Mismatch? Don't Tell Peter McNeeley! Plus: Fights we'd like to see, Jo-el Scott, Bronco McKart, when stop fights?

Nov. 1995: A 6-1 Favorite vs. Any Champion: Maybe They Should Just Give Tyson The Title. Plus: Roy Jones, Riddick Bowe, Ancee Gedeon, Hall of Fame, LaMar Clark, All-Time Top 10: Italy, What If ... Saad Muhammad-Scott.

Dec. 1995: McNeeley Goes Too Soon—Mike Tyson: The Beast Is Yet To Come. Plus: Tommy Morrison, Naseem Hamed, Chiquita Gonzalez, Gaspar Ortega, best chins.

Winter 1995 (92-Page Special): Buster Mathis Jr.: "Mike Tyson, You Got A Fight Comin' On." Plus: Holyfield-Bowe III preview, Wayne McCullough, Jesse James Hughes, Norris-Vaden preview, *The Ring* Insiders' Poll, What If ... Moore-Ayala Jr.

Feb. 1996: Bowe's The Man (For Now), But Is He Man Enough For Tyson? Also: Lennox Lewis, Hamed-Barrera, Paul Banke, Vince Phillips, boxing on Madison Ave., What If ... Leonard-Pryor.

April 1996: Oscar De La Hoya—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Mike Tyson, Gabe Ruelas, 1995 in review, All-Time Top 10: Africa.

May 1996: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Frankie Randall, Tim Witherspoon, Roy Jones, Bernard Hopkins.

June 1996 (92-Page Special): The Top 50 Fighters Of The Last 50 Years. Plus: Barrera-McKinney, Oscar De La Hoya, internet, Decade To Remember (1940s): Jimmy Bivins.

July 1996: Tyson! The Baddest ... But Is He The Best? Plus: De La Hoya-Chavez preview, Fabrice Tiozzo, Tommy Morrison & HIV, Malinga-Benn, closed-circuit, Chacon-Gomez.

Aug. 1996: A Closer Look At Tyson. Where He's At ... And Where He's Going. Plus: Joe Frazier, Roberto Duran, Buster Douglas, Arturo Gatti, women's boxing.

Sept. 1996: Lennox Lewis: Tough Enough For Tyson? Plus: Lewis-Mercer, Olympic team, Pernell Whitaker, Mark Johnson, Rocky, Scrapiron Johnson, heavyweight hopefuls.

Oct. 1996 (92-Page Special): A Lift For Boxing: Oscar's Timing Is Perfect! Plus: What's good and bad about boxing, Azumah Nelson, De La Hoya-Chavez, Charlie Powell.

Nov. 1996: Pole-Axed! Low Blows, Sinking Bowe, Ugly Show. Plus: Bowe-Golota I, Blinky Palermo, exciting fighters, Winky Wright, Joe Brown.

Dec. 1996: Our Spin On Roy Jones. Plus: heavyweight division, Olympic recap, Luis Rodriguez, Puerto Rican fighters, Danny Hodge, Saad Muhammad.

Jan. 1997: Riddick Bowe's Promise. "This Time I'm Whipping Golota's Ass!" Plus: David Reid, Whitaker-Rivera II, meaningless records, Dick Tiger, Jess Willard.

March 1997 (92-Page Special): Mike Tyson. Can He Reclaim His Greatness? Plus: 10 greatest controversies, Teddy Atlas & Michael Moorer, Kostya Tszyu, George Chuvalo.

April 1997: Evander Holyfield—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Bowe-Golota II, Nigel Benn, David Reid, 1996 recap, Ray Actis, Joe Bugner.

May 1997: De La Hoya-Whitaker: Can "Sweet Pea" Stop Oscar's March To Greatness? Plus: Fitzsimmons-Corbett, Junior Jones, Phillip Holiday, Don King, Zaragoza-McCullough.

June 1997 (Special Collector's Issue): Holyfield-Tyson II: What It Means For Now ... And Forever. Plus: Holyfield-Tyson fight poster, Naseem Hamed, computer unification, Sayers-Heenan, state of the game.

July 1997: Leonard: There Wasn't Even A Ray Of Hope. Plus: Felix Trinidad, David Reid, Willie deWit & Shawn O'Sullivan, THE RING's 75th anniversary, Moore-Durelle I.

Sept. 1997 (92-Page Special): Who's The Best? The Experts Make Their Pound-For-Pound Choice. Plus: Terry Norris, Junior Jones, George Foreman, greatest punchers, Tapia-Romero preview, Mark Tessman, Doc Anderson.

Oct. 1997: Bang! Naseem Hamed Takes Aim At America. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Phillips-Tszyu, Saman Sorjaturong, Bobby Dykes.

Nov. 1997: Mike Tyson: Is He Finished? Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Ike Ibeabuchi, Hall of Fame weekend, mismatches.

Holiday 1997: Roy Jones: When He's Motivated, He's Unstoppable—Got That, Evander? Plus: Julio Cesar Green, Sugar Shane Mosley, boxers' day jobs, Tyson's mentor, Kid Lavigne.

Jan. 1998: Give This Man His Due! If You Can't Respect Oscar ... You Can't Respect Anyone! Plus: Sanchez-Mayweather, Morales-Zaragoza, Lucia Rijker, Marvin Johnson, characters.

Feb. 1998: Welter-Skelter! The Hottest Division In Boxing. Plus: Lewis-Golota, Olympic update, Art Shires, boxing I.Q.

March 1998 (92-Page Special): Into The Millennium With The Real Deal: THE RING's Timeline For Evander Holyfield. Plus: Hernandez-Hernandez, Briggs-Foreman, 10 champs recall "The Day I Won The Title," Johnny Thompson.

April 1998: Evander Holyfield: THE RING's Fighter Of The Year (Again!). Plus: Yory Boy Campas, Mullings-Norris, Pinkey Mitchell, Holyfield Q & A, Hamed-Kelley, Oscar De La Hoya.

May 1998: Wrestling With His Reinstatement: Is Tyson Biting The Hand That Feeds Him? Plus: Lewis-Briggs preview, Michael Grant, Manfredy-Gatti, Ski Goldstein, Dan Donnelly.

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THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended February 26, 1998

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Mosley remained second at lightweight by starching Demetrio Ceballos

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Fairburn, GA *35-3 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *32-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **GEORGE FOREMAN** Marshall, TX *76-5*
4. **MICHAEL MOORER** Detroit, MI *39-2*
5. **RAY MERCER** West Orange, NJ *25-4-1*
6. **CHRIS BYRD** Flint, MI *23-0*
7. **SHANNON BRIGGS** New York, NY *31-1*
8. **MICHAEL GRANT** Norristown, PA *27-0*
9. **IKE IBEABUCHI** Dallas, TX *17-0*
10. **DAVID TUA** Totowa, NJ *28-1*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **FABRICE TIOZZO** France *38-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ** Germany *22-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **IMAMU MAYFIELD** New Brunswick, NJ *17-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** Argentina *22-2-1*
5. **NATE MILLER** Philadelphia, PA *30-5*
6. **CARL THOMPSON** England *22-4*
7. **ROBERT DANIELS** Miami, FL *35-3-1*
8. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS** Las Vegas, NV *28-4-1*
9. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** Lexington, KY *26-5-2*
10. **DON DIEGO POEDER** Netherlands *21-0*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *35-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany *37-0*
3. **REGGIE JOHNSON** Houston, TX *37-5-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **VIRGIL HILL** Bismarck, ND *43-2*
5. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL *29-1*
6. **LOU DEL VALLE** Bronx, NY *27-1 (WBA Champ)*
7. **WILLIAM GUTHRIE** Philadelphia, PA *24-1*
8. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** Germany *39-4-1*
9. **FRANK TATE** Houston, TX *39-4*
10. **MICHAEL NUNN** Davenport, IA *52-3*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **FRANKIE LILES** N. Hollywood, CA *31-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **CHARLES BREWER** Philadelphia, PA *30-5 (IBF Champ)*
3. **SUGARBOY MALINGA** South Africa *42-10 (WBC Champ)*
4. **JOE CALZAGHE** Wales *24-0*
5. **ROBIN REID** England *25-1-1*
6. **HEROL GRAHAM** England *48-5*
7. **VINCENZO NARDIELLO** Italy *33-6*
8. **THOMAS TATE** Houston, TX *33-5*
9. **CHRIS EUBANK** England *45-3-2*
10. **JOSEPH KIWANUKA** Las Vegas, NV *25-2-2*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA *34-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **KEITH HOLMES** Washington, D.C. *30-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **WILLIAM JOPPY** Washington, D.C. *25-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **OTIS GRANT** Canada *30-1-1*
5. **LONNIE BRADLEY** New York, NY *26-0-1*
6. **JULIO CESAR GREEN** Brooklyn, NY *22-3*
7. **ROBERT McCRACKEN** England *30-0*
8. **ANTWUN ECHOLS** Davenport, IA *19-2-1*
9. **HASSINE CHERIFI** France *24-2-1*
10. **RYAN RHODES** England *16-1*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI** *France 36-2-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **YORY BOY CAMPAS** *Mexico 69-2 (IBF Champ)*
3. **KEITH MULLINGS** *Brooklyn, NY 15-4-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **TERRY NORRIS** *Mission Valley, CA 47-7*
5. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ** *Argentina 59-3*
6. **WINKY WRIGHT** *St. Petersburg, FL 38-1*
7. **RAUL MARQUEZ** *Houston, TX 28-1*
8. **BRONCO McKART** *Monroe, MI 33-2*
9. **HECTOR CAMACHO** *Orlando, FL 64-4-1*
10. **EMMETT LINTON** *Tacoma, WA 24-2*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA** *Whittier, CA 27-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **PERNELL WHITAKER** *Norfolk, VA 41-2-1*
3. **FELIX TRINIDAD** *Puerto Rico 32-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **IKE QUARTEY** *Ghana 34-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **JOSE LUIS LOPEZ** *Mexico 40-3-2*
6. **OBA CARR** *Detroit, MI 44-2-1*
7. **PATRICK CHARPENTIER** *France 26-4-1*
8. **VERNON FORREST** *Atlanta, GA 23-0*
9. **WILFREDO RIVERA** *Puerto Rico 27-3-1*
10. **ANDREI PESTRIAEV** *Russia 20-2*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **VINCE PHILLIPS** *Las Vegas, NV 38-3 (IBF Champ)*
2. **KHALID RAHILOU** *France 32-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ** *Mexico 99-2-1*
4. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ** *Mexico 42-1*
5. **KOSTYA TSZYU** *Australia 19-1-1*
6. **RAFAEL RUELAS** *Studio City, CA 50-3*
7. **HECTOR LOPEZ** *Palmdale, CA 38-6-1*
8. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA** *Puerto Rico 46-4*
9. **REGGIE GREEN** *Clinton, MD 27-2*
10. **ALFONSO SANCHEZ** *Mexico 17-1*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV** *Japan 25-0 (WBA Champ)*
2. **SHANE MOSLEY** *Pomona, CA 26-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **STEVE JOHNSTON** *Denver, CO 23-0 (WBC Champ)*
4. **PHILLIP HOLIDAY** *South Africa 31-1*
5. **GEORGE SCOTT** *Pembroke Pines, FL 32-1*
6. **AZUMAH NELSON** *Ghana 39-4-2*
7. **ARTURO GATTI** *Jersey City, NJ 29-2*
8. **ISRAEL CARDONA** *Hartford, CT 28-2*
9. **ARTUR GRIGORIJAN** *Uzbekistan 23-0*
10. **CESAR BAZAN** *Mexico 30-2-1*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **GENARO HERNANDEZ** *Los Angeles, CA 37-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ANGEL MANFREDY** *Gary, IN 23-2-1*
3. **YONG SOO CHOI** *South Korea 23-2-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **ROBERT GARCIA** *Oxnard, CA 29-0*
5. **JULIEN LORCY** *France 37-0-2*
6. **TRACY PATTERSON** *Highland, NY 60-5-1*
7. **JESUS CHAVEZ** *Austin, TX 22-1*
8. **GABE RUELAS** *Arleta, CA 44-4*
9. **ARNULFO CASTILLO** *Mexico 26-0-2*
10. **HAROLD WARREN** *Corpus Christi, TX 38-9*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **NASEEM HAMED** *England 29-0*
2. **LUISITO ESPINOSA** *Philippines 42-7 (WBC Champ)*
3. **WILFREDO VAZQUEZ** *Puerto Rico 50-7-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **HECTOR LIZARRAGA** *Fresno, CA 34-8-5 (IBF Champ)*
5. **KEVIN KELLEY** *Flushing, NY 47-2-2*
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ** *Mexico 23-1*
7. **ANGEL VAZQUEZ** *Hartford, CT 15-0*
8. **DERRICK GAINER** *Pensacola, FL 21-4*
9. **ORLANDO CANIZALES** *Laredo, TX 46-3-1*
10. **ANTONIO CERMENO** *Venezuela 29-1*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **VUYANI BUNGU** *South Africa 34-2 (IBF Champ)*
2. **ERIK MORALES** *Mexico 28-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **KENNEDY McKINNEY** *Memphis, TN 33-3-1*
4. **JUNIOR JONES** *Brooklyn, NY 44-3*
5. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA** *Mexico 44-2*
6. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH** *Las Vegas, NV 20-1*
7. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ** *Mexico 24-0 (WBA Champ)*
8. **FRED NORWOOD** *St. Louis, MO 28-0-1*
9. **RAFAEL DEL VALLE** *Puerto Rico 23-2-1*
10. **HECTOR ACERO-SANCHEZ** *Brooklyn, NY 37-5-3*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **TIM AUSTIN** *Cincinnati, OH 17-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **NANA KONADU** *Ghana 37-3 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI** *Japan 15-4-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **SIRIMONGKOL SINGMANASSUK** *Thailand 16-1*
5. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO** *Colombia 37-1*
6. **MBULELO BOTILE** *South Africa 21-1*
7. **PAULIE AYALA** *Ft. Worth, TX 23-0*
8. **VEERAPHOL SAHAPROM** *Thailand 14-1*
9. **DAORUNG C. SIRIWAT** *Thailand 61-6-3*
10. **ADAN VARGAS** *Mexico 25-1-1*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **JOHNNY TAPIA** *Albuquerque, NM 43-0-2 (IBF Champ)*
2. **GERRY PENALOSA** *Philippines 39-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **SATOSHI IIDA** *Japan 23-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR** *Thailand 14-1-1*
5. **HYUNG CHUL LEE** *South Korea 19-6*
6. **HAROLD GREY** *Colombia 21-2*
7. **LUIS BOLANO** *Colombia 23-0*
8. **RATANACHAI DUTCHBOY GYM** *Thailand 25-3*
9. **JULIO GAMBOA** *Nicaragua 21-2*
10. **JOEL LUNA ZARATE** *Mexico 32-2-1*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON** *Washington, D.C. 34-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **CHATCHAI DUTCHBOY GYM** *Thailand 31-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JOSE BONILLA** *Venezuela 24-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. **CARLOS SALAZAR** *Argentina 46-7-3*
5. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT** *Thailand 27-1*
6. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL** *Mexico 35-3*
7. **DAVID GUERAULT** *France 11-0*
8. **CHOKVIWAT CHOKCHAI** *Thailand 30-3*
9. **JESPER JENSEN** *Denmark 25-1*
10. **ARTHUR JOHNSON** *East St. Louis, IL 17-4*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG** *Thailand 37-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **PHICHITNOI C. SIRIWAT** *Thailand 18-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **MAURICIO PASTRANA** *Colombia 17-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **BABY JAKE MATLALA** *South Africa 48-10-2*
5. **JUAN CORDOBA** *Argentina 31-4-3*
6. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO** *Mexico 50-5-4*
7. **JOMA GAMBOA** *Philippines 22-3-1*
8. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL** *Phoenix, AZ 45-4*
9. **HI YONG CHOI** *South Korea 19-2*
10. **JESUS CHONG** *Mexico 31-8*

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA** *Welterweight*
2. **ROY JONES** *Light Heavyweight*
3. **FELIX TRINIDAD** *Welterweight*
4. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** *Heavyweight*
5. **PERNELL WHITAKER** *Welterweight*
6. **RICARDO LOPEZ** *Strawweight*
7. **NASEEM HAMED** *Featherweight*
8. **JOHNNY TAPIA** *Junior Bantamweight*
9. **MARK JOHNSON** *Flyweight*
10. **BERNARD HOPKINS** *Middleweight*

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

BIRTHDAY BASHES

Remember when your grade-school chums would celebrate your birthday by landing one haymaker to your shoulder for every year you'd been alive? Well, let's celebrate the 30th birthday of the current Madison Square Garden (the fourth version of the word's most famous arena) by hitting the place with 30 punches from its glorious fistic past:

1) Rocky Marciano's right cross, February 11, 1968: The new Garden opens with comedian Bob Hope's salute to the U.S.O. The great white Hope relies on his schtick-and-move during a bit with the ex-heavyweight king, but "crashes" after walking into the punch that once dismantled Jersey Joe Walcott.

2) Bob Foster's left hook, May 24, 1968: The lanky powerhitter puts light heavyweight champion Dick Tiger down for the count with a picturesque bomb in round four. The dramatic kayo kicks off a Foster title reign that will feature 14 successful defenses in six years.

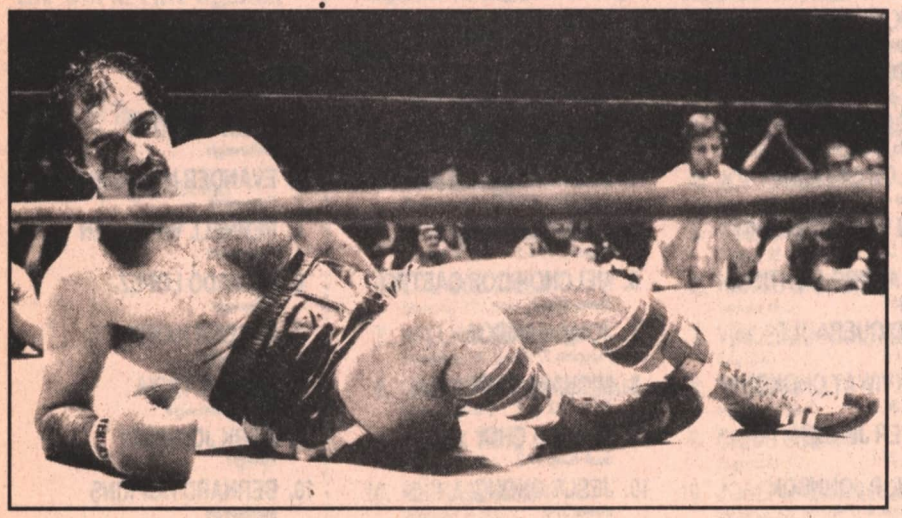
3) Joe Frazier's left hook, February 16, 1970: Frazier, who is recognized as heavyweight king by the powerful New York State Athletic Commission, uses his heralded wrecking ball to dismantle WBA titlist Jimmy Ellis in four rounds and unify a title that has been split for three years.

4) Muhammad Ali's left hook, December 7, 1970: Though not a punch Ali is known for, it serves him well in this grudge match with punishing Argentine Oscar Bonavena. The final test before a superfight with Frazier is a bruising war of attrition, and the hook accounts for all three knockdowns and an automatic stoppage in the 15th round.

5) Frazier's left hook, March 8, 1971: The exclamation point on his finest career performance. Smokin' Joe swings his trademark sledgehammer in the 15th round, Ali crashes on his back, and "The Fight Of The Century" provides an image that will live for eternity.

6) Roberto Duran's low blow, June 26, 1972: The 21-year-old Panamanian is on his way to lifting the lightweight crown—he's ahead by scores of 8-3-1, 8-3-1, and 9-2-1—when he nails champion Ken Buchanan below the belt after the bell ending round 13. The Scotsman can't continue, and a unrepentant star is born.

7) Esteban De Jesus' left hook, November 17, 1972: DeJesus drops the lightweight king with a whistling left in the first 30 seconds of a non-title showdown, then goes on to capture a decision. The knockdown is the first of Duran's career, and the loss is the only one he will suffer in his first 75 bouts.



Denis feels the wrath of Cooney's left hook

8) Earnie Shavers' right uppercut, June 18, 1973: Ellis falls in one. And he thought *Frazier* hit hard.

9) Jerry Quarry's left hook, December 14, 1973: Proving that sometimes the best defense is a good offense, the Irishman pounces on Shavers, blasting out the feared assassin in the opening round.

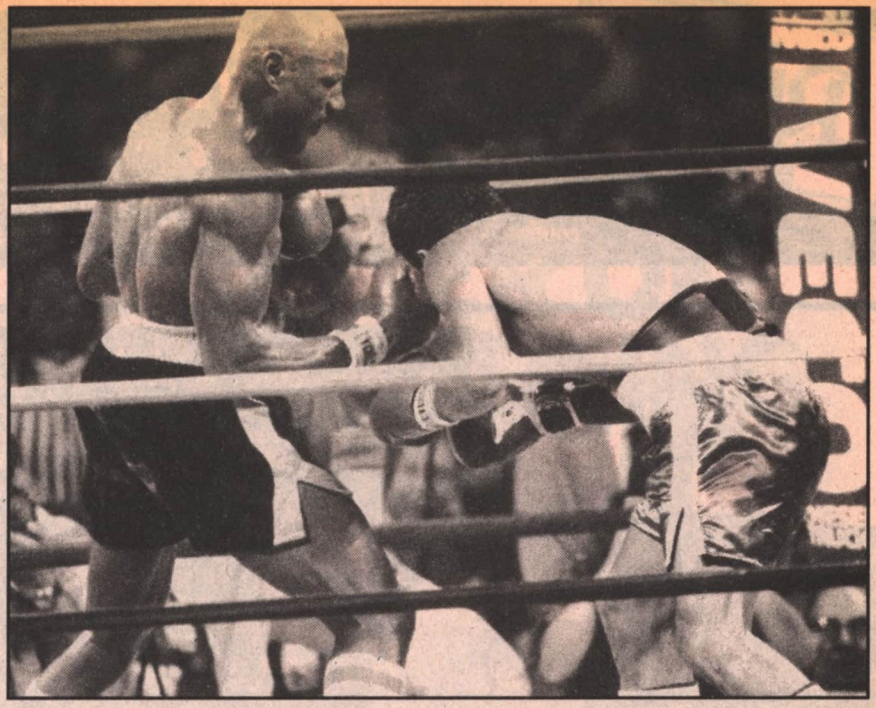
10) Ali's right cross, January 28, 1974: Could "The Greatest" have kayoed Frazier in the second round of Superfight II? We'll never know. After Ali staggers

his nemesis with a right, then fires away with combinations, referee Tony Perez mistakenly ends the round approximately 10 seconds too early. Frazier recovers, and Ali has to settle for a unanimous decision.

11) Ken Norton's looping right, May 11, 1977: Duane Bobick unravels faster than a pair of sweat-soaked handwraps.

12) Shavers' overhand right, September 29, 1977: Ali is badly hurt in round two, but Shavers is fooled by the champion's exaggerated woozy act and hesitant to go all out for the finish. Ali survives, and goes on to retain his title with a unanimous decision.

13) Bruce Curry's right cross, November 18, 1977: The underdog Texan hurts an out-of-shape Wilfred Benitez with the punch all night, dropping him three times. One card gives Curry a 5-4-1 edge, but the other two favor Benitez, 5-4-1 and 7-3. A great argument against scoring on the rounds system.



Hagler's right hook ended Hamsho's challenge

14) Alexis Arguello's right cross, July 26, 1978: The usually reliable crunchpunch catches only air against elusive Vilomar Fernandez, who hands the mighty Arguello his first loss in his last 26 bouts.

15) Larry Homes' right uppercut, June 22, 1979: It sends Mike Weaver crashing in round 11 and shifts the momentum in a bout WBC heavyweight king Holmes was in danger of losing to a virtual unknown. The end comes in the 12th.

16) Duran's right cross, June 22, 1979: A flash knockdown in the sixth round highlights a surprisingly easy 10-round decision over Carlos Palomino on the Holmes-Weaver undercard and sets up a clash with Sugar Ray Leonard.

17) Gerry Cooney's left hook, November 9, 1979: Word starts to spread about the Long Island powerhitter after his best weapon drops and stops a bloody Dino Denis.

18) Cooney's left hook, May 11, 1981: Specifically, the last of many, which leaves a ringworn Norton glassy-eyed and helpless in a corner and earns Cooney his shot at Holmes.

19) Salvador Sanchez' right cross, July 21, 1982: It's the shot that starts challenger Azumah Nelson's downfall in the 15th round, eventually leading to a stoppage. This is the first glimpse many ringsiders have of Nelson, who will go on to become one of the finest warriors of the '80s and '90s. It's also a final look at featherweight great Sanchez, who will die in an auto accident 22 days later.

20) Duran's straight right, June 16, 1983: "Hands Of Stone" celebrates his 32nd birthday by blowing out Davey Moore like a candle. The right produces a knockdown in the seventh, and a round later, Duran is crowned WBA junior middleweight king.

21) Luis Resto's right cross, June 16, 1983: With the most of the padding removed from his gloves, Resto beats Billy Collins' face into a purple mess on the Duran-Moore undercard. It is one of the Garden's darkest hours.

22) Marvin Hagler's right hook, October 19, 1984: The southpaw middleweight king puts Mustafa Hamsho down in the third round, the first knockdown of the challenger's 43-bout career. It's all over moments later.

23) Lonnie Smith's left hook, August 21, 1985: No weather forecaster predicts "Lightning" will strike WBC super lightweight king Bill Costello, dethroning him in eight rounds in a near-empty arena.

24) Edwin Rosario's left hook, June 13, 1986: From the moment the hook buckles his knees in the fifth round, Hector Camacho is never again the same fighter. "The Macho Man" escapes with a disputed decision, and henceforth employs a boring, safety-first style.

25) Mike Tyson's left hook, June 13, 1986: Praise Reggie Gross for taking the attack to "Kid Dynamite." Fault him for leaving himself vulnerable to the counter. *Ka-boom!*

26) Terry Norris' left hook, February 9, 1991: In his MSG debut, Leonard is decked by the blazing shot in round two, and never threatens. He falls again from a right in the seventh and, through swollen lips, announces yet another retirement after dropping a unanimous verdict.

27) Andrew Golota's low blow: July 11, 1996: Golota's fouling costs him a huge heavyweight upset and sparks a 25-minute, chair-swinging riot.

28) Ricardo Lopez' left hook, August 23, 1997: Boxing's longest-reigning champion makes his New York debut, hooking Alex Sanchez into a stupor in round five to retain the WBC strawweight belt.

29) Kennedy McKinney's straight right, December 19, 1997: McKinney completes his comeback from cocaine addiction with a perfectly timed missile that floors and finishes favored Junior Jones.

30) Naseem Hamed's counter left, December 19, 1997: The Prince's U.S. debut is nearly a disaster, as he is decked three times by an inspired Kevin Kelley. Hamed's incredible power saves him, however, and one punch ends the fireworks show in round four. ■

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10 REASONS TYSON WOULD BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT KING

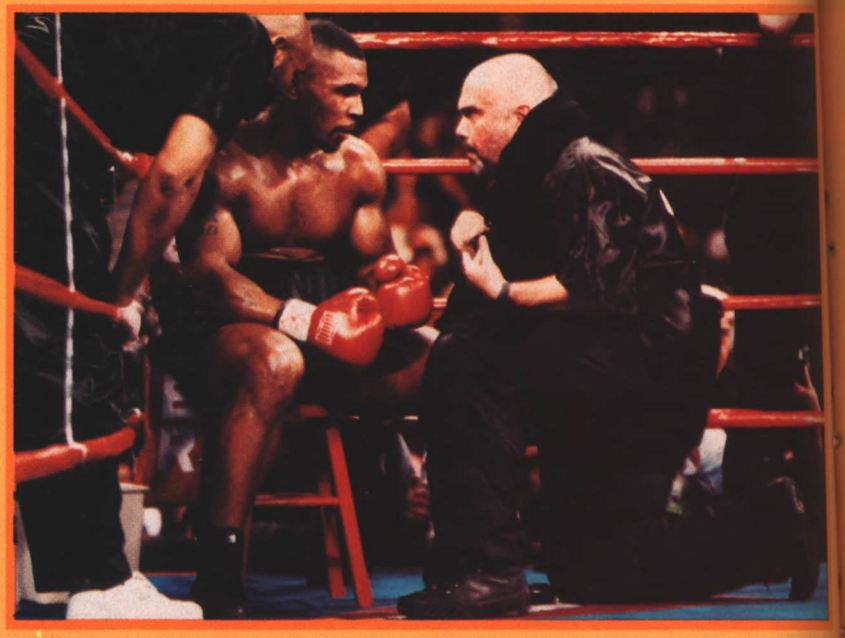
Despite two TV movies, a handful of books, and untold newspaper and magazine articles, the relationship between Mike Tyson and Don King remains a tantalizing topic, a boxing soap opera that shows no signs of running out of surprising plot twists. Maybe one day we'll learn the complete story of their strange alliance, but for the time being, we'll have to be satisfied with speculation and innuendo. Because despite a recent rash of rumors concerning the strained state of the Tyson-King partnership, hard facts are almost as difficult to unearth as undisputed world champions.

Still, boxing without King is one concept Tyson hasn't tried until now in his never-ending search for redemption. So let's presume for discussion sake that he does rid himself of King at some point. What would be the consequences? How would such a drastic change affect Tyson's career, both inside and out of the ring? Is meaningful change even possible at this late stage? But rather than just pose a series of provocative questions, THE RING *takes matters a step further and suggests 10 ways that Tyson's career would be considerably different—and possibly significantly better—without King.*

1. A new beginning with a clear mental outlook: Exactly how great of a Svengali-like influence King holds over Tyson is difficult to say. But just having to listen to the bombastic promoter's protracted harangues on a regular basis is enough to drive anybody crazy. Without King yapping in his ear, Tyson will finally have a chance to hear himself think and maybe even figure out a few things that have eluded him in the past.

He'll no longer have to look over his shoulder at the giant shadow of King looming in the background. Tyson could be his own man, free of old baggage, free to determine his own destiny, unencumbered by anybody's agenda but his own. Free to succeed or fail of his own accord.

2. No more guilt by association: Fair or not, we are judged by the company we keep. And Tyson, who never needed any help generating negative publicity, made matters worse by joining forces with a character as controversial as King. In the past, when Tyson was injured in training, it was automatically assumed that some sort of King-inspired "trickeration" was afoot. When King tried to bully the WBC and WBA into not recognizing Buster Douglas as champion after the underdog had iced Tyson in Tokyo, it made Tyson seem like a poor loser, although he wasn't the one, at least not initially, doing all the bellyaching.



A kneeling Jay Bright gives Tyson advice between rounds of the first Holyfield fight. With King out of the picture, Tyson would have an opportunity to hire an experienced trainer, one capable of reawakening the ex-champ's desire and teaching him how to improve.

Sure, it's a case of birds of a feather, but if Tyson flew King's coop, it would make it a lot tougher for critics to smear them both with the same brush. And even if things didn't improve all that much for Tyson in the long run, he would certainly benefit from a second honeymoon with the media on the strength of dumping King, a move many among their ranks have long advocated.

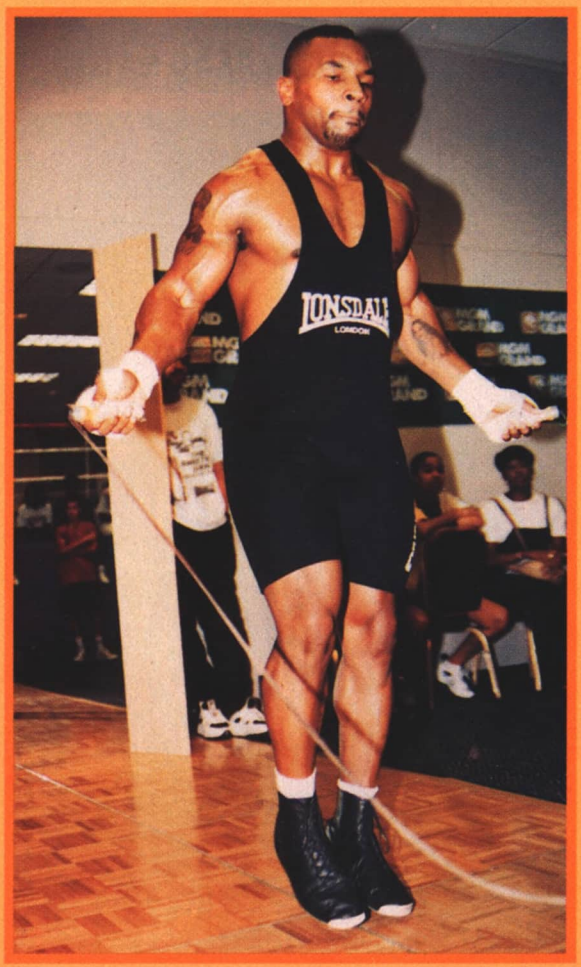
3. Relief from unsettling anxieties: Don't imagine for a second that Tyson is immune to all the talk about King ripping

If Tyson is ever going to come close to returning to the form he displayed knocking out Larry Holmes in 1988, he'll have to change both his mental attitude and the way he approaches preparing for a fight. Otherwise, he's doomed to end up back on the canvas (inset), wondering where it all went wrong.

him off. Even if the rumors and gossip are totally false, there has to be a seed of doubt somewhere in the back of Tyson's mind. And that's at the very least. More likely, considering how he's always complained about being taken advantage of, Tyson harbors a festering resentment. With King out of the picture, however, the nagging doubt that he's being cheated will be gone, allowing him to concentrate fully on reinvigorating his career.

4. A real trainer: Isn't it weird that the most compelling fighter of our era has been without a real trainer for over half his career. The last time Kevin Rooney worked Tyson's corner was the Michael Spinks fight in 1988. Since then, Aaron Snowell, Jay Bright, and Richie Giachetti have taken turns being chief towel-wielder. Giachetti and Snowell are generally viewed as King's men, fringe players put in a position of power more through their allegiance to DK than their expertise as trainers. Bright was a holdover from the Cus D'Amato days, a boyhood friend who lived at the boxing guru's Catskill, New York, home during the same time as Tyson. The fact that Bright had never trained a fighter before working with Tyson says it all.

What Tyson desperately needs in order to salvage whatever is left of his fighting ability is a trainer he respects and is willing to listen to. Even Rooney was pretty much an extension of D'Amato, an effective surrogate at best. What's required now are fresh ideas and new insights provided by a trainer who can seize Tyson's imagination and make him believe in new possibilities, which leads us to the next item ...



Given the peace of mind some people believe leaving King will bring, Tyson will be able to refocus his attention on boxing. That means redoubling his efforts in the gym.

5. An opportunity to rededicate himself to his craft: Somewhere along the line, Tyson lost his love for the nuts-and-bolts aspects of the sport. The ease with which he dispatched his opponents during the late-'80s, along with a lavish lifestyle and the gradual lessening of the quality of his trainers, slowly eroded the ferocious fighting machine D'Amato had so painstakingly built from the ground up. The mentality seemed to be: Why worry about upper body movement and jabbing your way inside when you can take a guy's head off with one or two shots?

But having mustered the courage to leave King's protective cocoon, surely Tyson could find the fortitude to rediscover what made him great in the first place. With hard work and trust in a qualified trainer, it would be possible for him to relearn the moves that carried him undefeated to the undisputed heavyweight title. And with King gone, the chances of finding the right man to bring out the best in Tyson would be greatly increased. No yes-men need apply.

6. A strategist in the corner: Since the death of D'Amato, the fight plan for every Tyson fight has been basically the same: Go out and throw haymakers until the other guy is rendered helpless. In other words, regardless of what the adversary brought to the fight, there was little or no deviation from the norm, no specific strategy tailored to the individual foe. It didn't matter whether it was Peter McNeeley or Evander Holyfield in the other corner, the bombs-away blueprint was always identical.

It was against Holyfield that Tyson's woeful lack of adaptability was most evident, but it wasn't the first time an inability to modify his methods was all too apparent. Remember how Mitch Green and Bonecrusher Smith shut down Iron Mike's vaunted attack by tying him up at every opportunity? A wise head in the corner

(Continued on page 66)

Photo by Bill Apter

Tyson tries out his new role as wrestling enforcer at a WWF press conference in New York hyping a match between Shawn Michaels and Steve Austin.

The Golden Road To Stardom:

Sixth In A Series

DAVID REID: LEARNING TO KEEP HIS COOL

By Nigel Collins

A smiling David Reid came to the postfight victory party armed with a five-inch high stack of photographs, sat down at a table, and began autographing the black-and-white glossies for the dozens of fans clustering around him. Across the room, surrounded by his own group of admirers, was IBF middleweight champion Bernard "The Executioner" Hopkins. Both fighters were flush with victory after tallying wins on the same HBO *Boxing After Dark* card at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. And when Hopkins and Reid posed together for THE RING's photographer, you would have thought they were best buddies, brothers in arms who had fought their way out of the North Philly ghetto and into the boxing spotlight. But unknown to Hopkins, only minutes earlier, the normally amiable Reid had leveled his stablemate (both are promoted by America Presents) with a withering barrage of insults.

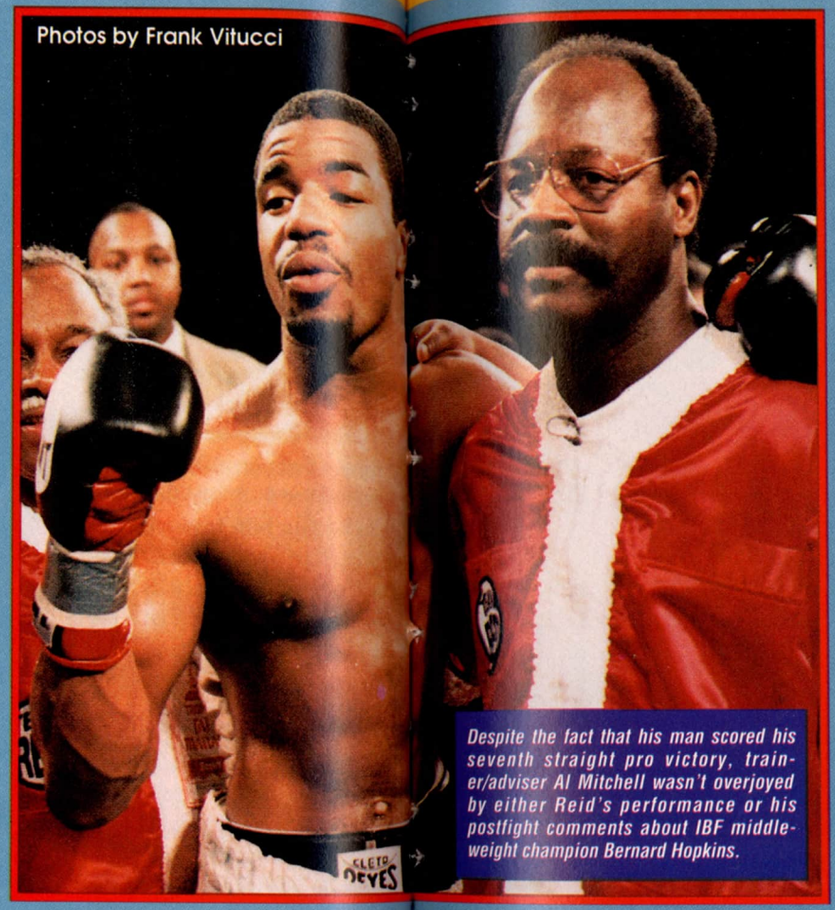
"He looked sorry," replied Reid when asked his opinion of Hopkins' sixth-round TKO of two-division former champion Simon Brown. "Bernard Hopkins can't even hold my shoes. Simon Brown is a bum. Bernard beat a bum. Every second of that fight, I could have beat Bernard. The man's got no heart. He can't fight. It looks like when he swings, he closes his eyes and he's scared. They say he's the best middleweight, but to me, he can't fight."

When informed of Reid's rant, Hopkins assumed the mature, philosophical attitude befitting a veteran champion who has nothing to prove.

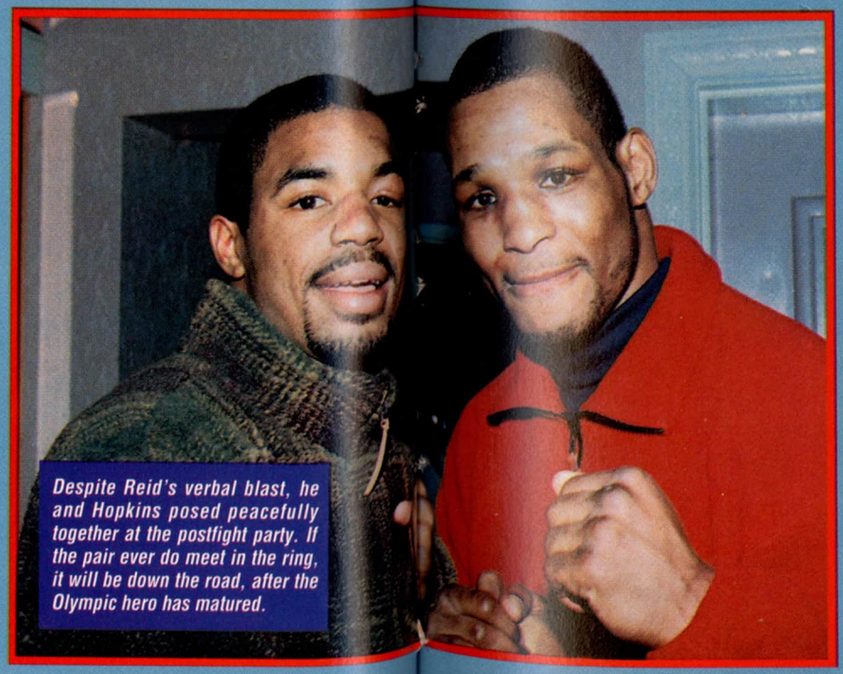
"Look, when I was younger, probably 99 percent of the things I said I wish I could take back," Hopkins told the *Philadelphia Daily News*. "You want to know what I think about David Reid? I

(Continued on page 66)

Photos by Frank Vitucci

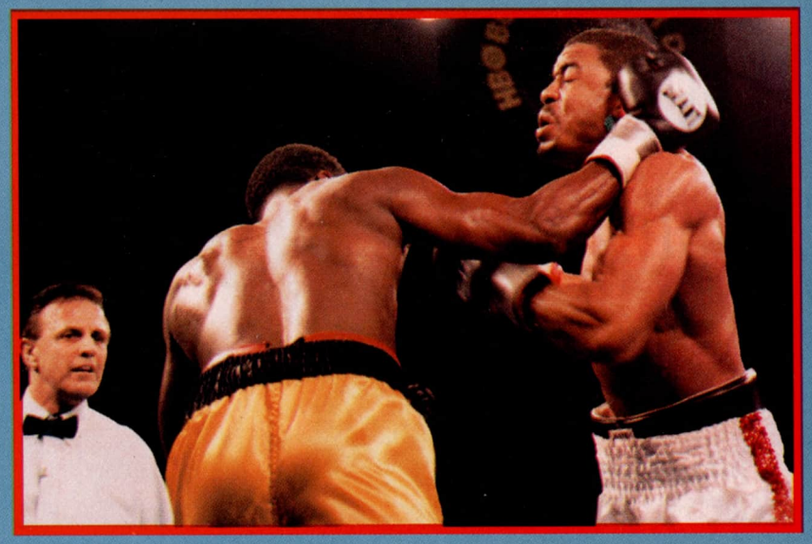


Despite the fact that his man scored his seventh straight pro victory, trainer/adviser Al Mitchell wasn't overjoyed by either Reid's performance or his postfight comments about IBF middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins.



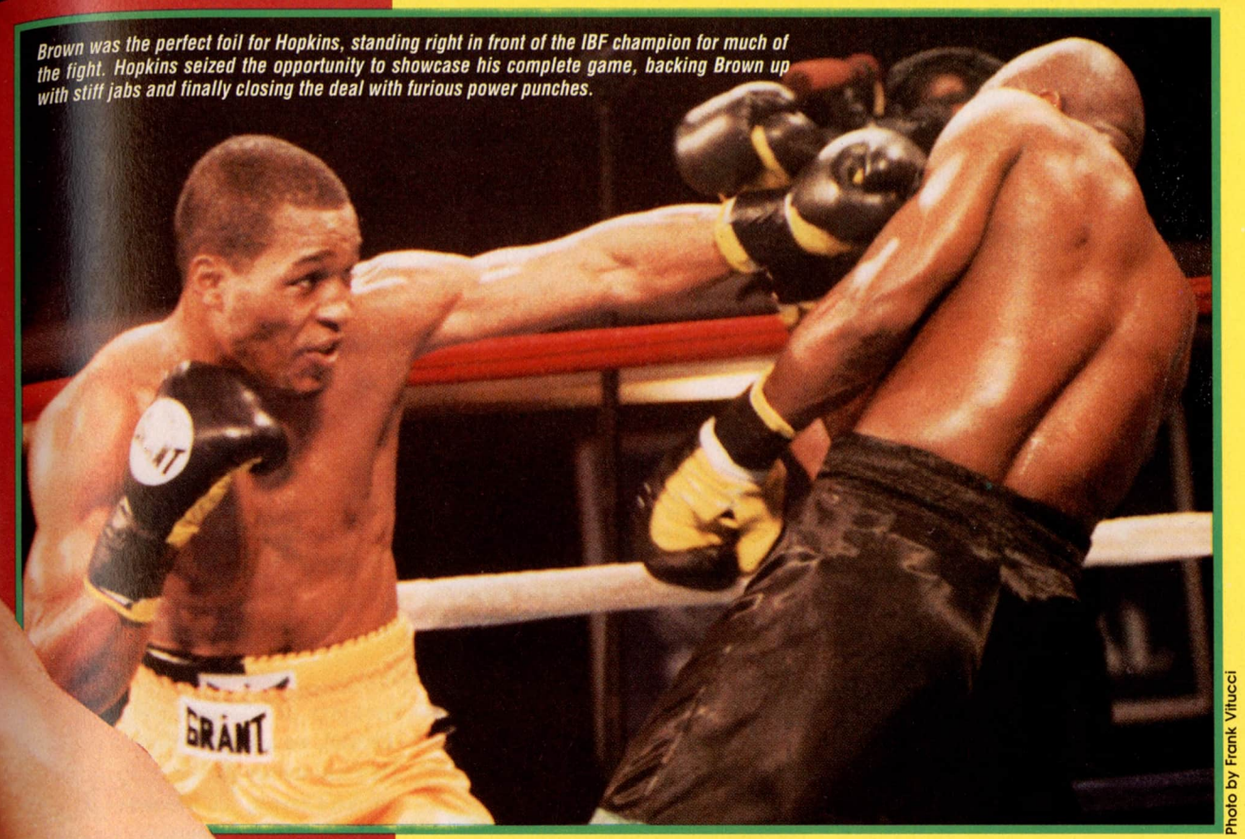
Despite Reid's verbal blast, he and Hopkins posed peacefully together at the postfight party. If the pair ever do meet in the ring, it will be down the road, after the Olympic hero has matured.

Although he was knocked down by a right to the head in the first round (top), a tenacious Robert Frazier survived to give Reid the toughest fight of his pro career (middle). In the end, however, "The American Dream's" class and power prevailed in a convincing if not overwhelming manner (bottom).



BERNARD HOPKINS

"The Executioner" Can Knock–Or Talk–Your Head Off!



Brown was the perfect foil for Hopkins, standing right in front of the IBF champion for much of the fight. Hopkins seized the opportunity to showcase his complete game, backing Brown up with stiff jabs and finally closing the deal with furious power punches.

Photo by Frank Vitucci

By John Scheinman

Bernard Hopkins could not stop talking. The clock bore down on 2 a.m., but the IBF middleweight champion was bursting with excess energy.

In his first appearance on HBO since his 12-round decision loss to Roy Jones in May 1993, Hopkins walked right through Simon Brown, one of boxing's toughest warriors of the past 15 years, in six rounds. To close the fight, Hopkins bombarded the former welterweight and junior middleweight champion along the ropes until referee Rudy Battle thankfully came to the rescue one minute into the round.

At 33, the hardscrabble Hopkins, who served 56 months in prison for strong-arm robbery, is starting to reap the fruits of turning around his life. Thirty-seven fights into his pro career, he is at the top of his game, one of the finest fighters in the world. And for those at the Grand Ballroom at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City who might not have been paying attention, or others still not convinced, Hopkins had an earful to offer. It might have been the early hours of the morning, but to Hopkins it was prime time.

"The only thing I want to do is put on the best show at 154 all the way up to light heavyweight," said Hopkins, his wheel of words well-oiled and spinning. "Champions take risks. [Sugar Ray] Robinson went up to 175 and fought one of the best guys up there and the heat got him. We're fleecing the public. I told [HBO Sports Vice President] Lou DiBella when I got this fight, I said, 'I'm not a dancer, I'm a fighter!' I get paid to fight. I saved the show tonight. I say HBO owes me."

Boxing writers love Hopkins because he fills their notebooks in a hurry. But you've got to be ready because words pour out of him and wash over you like a tidal wave. It's never a question-and-answer session; it's Preacher Hopkins delivering a sermon in the two great churches of truth and self. And the flock is made up of converts, or the soon-to-be.

He dominates inside the ring, and ingratiates himself out. After destroying Brown, Hopkins took time to say kind words to his beaten foe's young daughters. Outside his dressing room, he spotted two little boys, looked down at them, and barked, "Be good."

Once inside, finally sitting and unwinding, but still fiery, he told a young reporter he had read the last story he had written about him and liked it.

"Anything I can do," the reporter quietly offered, glowing in the compliment.

Who could blame him? Clearly, the late-blooming Hopkins is something special. Since his lackluster loss to Jones in May 1993 on the Riddick Bowe-Jesse Ferguson card, a bout in which neither fighter looked very good, Hopkins has just one blemish: a 12-round draw with Segundo Mercado. Otherwise, he's 12-0, with 10 knockouts.

The sensational win over Brown, his seventh defense of the IBF crown he won in a rematch with Mercado, improved his overall record to 34-2-1 (26). During a dominant exhibition against rugged

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

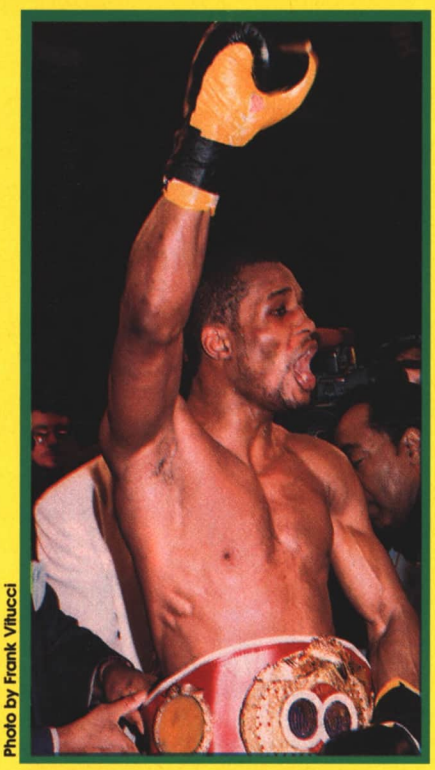


Photo by Frank Vitucci

Hopkins' absolute mastery of Brown provided further proof that "The Executioner" is the world's best middleweight.

Andrew Council in his prior fight, which resulted in a unanimous decision victory for the champ, Hopkins looked like he could have gone on for 30 rounds.

But more than just a superb fighter coming into his own, Hopkins is a man who has emerged from a street thug's hell with a crystal clear self-awareness and understanding of life around him. Life-force flows out of him in the form of talent and intensity. His torrential talk cannot be stemmed. He is minister, barker, politician, philosopher, and crusader.

Hear him on his bitter lawsuit to get free from promoter Butch Lewis: "I've been through so much. How can I fear any man when I have been involved, year after year, month after month, with killers, con artists, and rapists for 56 months? You think I'm going to be intimidated by a guy with a bow tie and no shirt on?"

Hopkins also understands the power of money for both the haves and the have-nots.

"Timing is everything," he said. "There's a reason I didn't have kids three or four years ago. If I had two or three kids when I was with Butch Lewis and being sold down the river, I would have had to take the $70,000 fights.

"When you're not fighting anymore and you still have to pay the bills, the mortgage people aren't going to say, 'Bernard, we are going to stick with you.' They say money ain't everything, but if you don't have it, you will suffer."

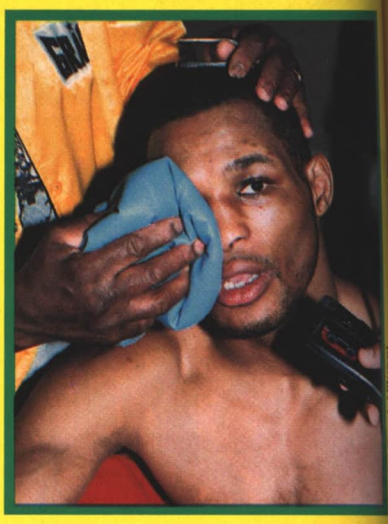
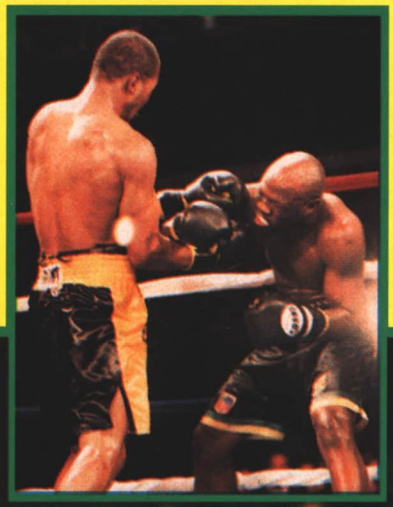


Photo by Frank Vitucci

Even while his handlers are trying to ice down his swollen face, Hopkins is always in the mood to talk. The Executioner is a down-to-earth champion who has seen it all and now, at age 33, is finally on the verge of stardom.



Photos by Frank Vitucci

Hopkins was the aggressor from the opening bell, bearing down on the former welterweight and junior middleweight champ with quick shots from both sides. After scoring a knockdown midway through the sixth, Hopkins pinned Brown along the ropes (above) and pounded the defenseless challenger mercilessly until referee Rudy Battle finally stepped in.

Hopkins, who reportedly received a purse of $250,000 for the Brown fight, is managed by Allen Taylor of Philadelphia, whom he described as "a slip-and-fall accident lawyer." But Hopkins was impressed with Taylor's quality.

"He said, 'I don't even want a retainer,'" Hopkins remembered from when they first teamed up.

Hopkins hates the rip-off, and he knows, in boxing, the sharks are everywhere. He understands how the game is played and worries about his fellow boxers. He sees them isolated by unscrupulous managers and promoters bent on exploitation.

"Can the fighters hold the promoter to the fire? It depends on how big they are," Hopkins said. "[Evander] Holyfield mentioned Jesus and God before he made any decisions about what he's going to do with his life. But after he beat [Mike] Tyson, they said, 'What are you going to do?' He said, 'You have to speak to Don King.'

"They—the promoters—are the controllers, but we are the sleeping giants. The bottom line is, who is the fighter? He's the guy who puts his life on the line. We are the backbone of boxing. If fighters think like ballplayers—Barkley calls Shaq up

(Continued on page 67)

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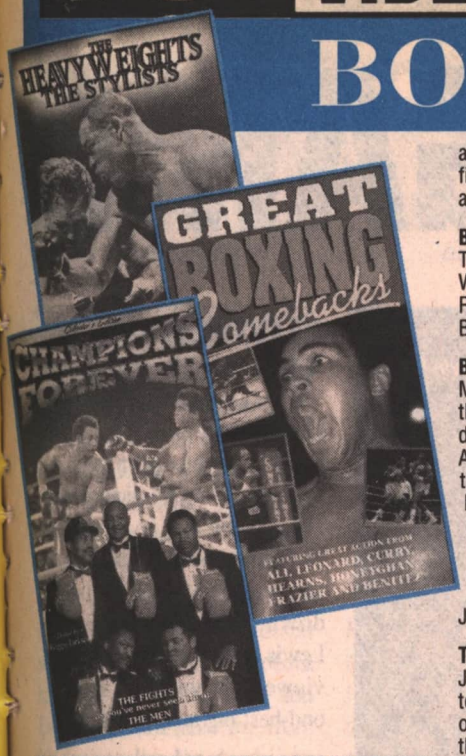

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You'll have a ringside seat for two of the best fights in the history of the sport as Sugar Ray Leonard and Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns go to war. Both fights (September 16, 1981 and June 12, 1989) are shown in their entirety. 127 minutes. **$19.95**

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This exciting video includes ring action of Tim Witherspoon, George Foreman, Aaron Pryor, Roberto Duran, Leslie Stewart, Larry Holmes, and Bobby Czyz. 51 minutes. **$19.95**

BOXING'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS
Match wits with the Boxing Writers of America as they choose the best fighter of all-time from each division. Includes explosive fight footage of Henry Armstrong, Benny Leonard, and Roberto Duran in the lightweight division; welterweights Barney Ross, Henry Armstrong, and Ray Robinson; middleweights Mickey Walker, Carlos Monzon and Ray Robinson; light heavyweights Bob Fitzsimmons, Billy Conn, and Archie Moore; heavyweights Muhammad Ali, Rocky Marciano, and Joe Louis. 60 minutes. **$19.95**

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Join Mike Tyson as he takes a tour through the history of the heavyweight division. Tyson adds his own insight as he analyzes the styles and lives of the men who wore the heavyweight crown before him. This fantastic video includes rare footage of Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, Muhammad Ali, and, of course, Tyson himself. 51 minutes. **$19.95**

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Host Curt Gowdy highlights the careers of the sport's finest boxers. Beginning with Jim Corbett, you'll see challengers throughout history battle in some of the most striking film coverage ever seen. Jack Johnson displays exquisite defensive skills, Floyd Patterson shows off his peek-a-boo style, Gene Tunney demonstrates the scientific approach to boxing, Muhammad Ali exhibits the skills that made him "The Greatest," plus Walcott, Charles, and Louis. 57 minutes. **$19.95**

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If you like knockout action, this video is a must for your collection. Among the fantastic one-punch knockouts: Ali-Liston (2), Louis-Braddock, Robinson-Fullmer, Patterson-Johansson (2), Louis-Paychek. 33 minutes. **$19.95**

THE STORY OF BOXING
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BOXING'S GREATEST KNOCKOUTS
This documentary puts you ringside for some of boxing's greatest knockouts. Fighters featured include Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, Joe Louis, Ray Leonard, Leon Spinks, and Rocky Graziano. 30 minutes. **$14.95**

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Boxing's baddest! The crunching punches, the devastating blows, the powerful jabs and awesome bodyblows—they're all here in this high-octane video. You'll see some of the great mismatches and the brutal results. You'll see classic punchers like Dempsey, Louis, Ali, Shavers, Frazier, Foreman, and Marciano. 30 minutes. **$14.95**

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Ali, Frazier, Foreman, Holmes, and Norton. For more than 20 years these kings of the ring ruled the heavyweight division. This unprecedented video brings all five greats together for the first time. Packed with exclusive fight footage, this video is an exciting emotional odyssey through the awesome careers of five bigger-than-life heroes who will always be champions forever. 115 minutes. **$19.95**

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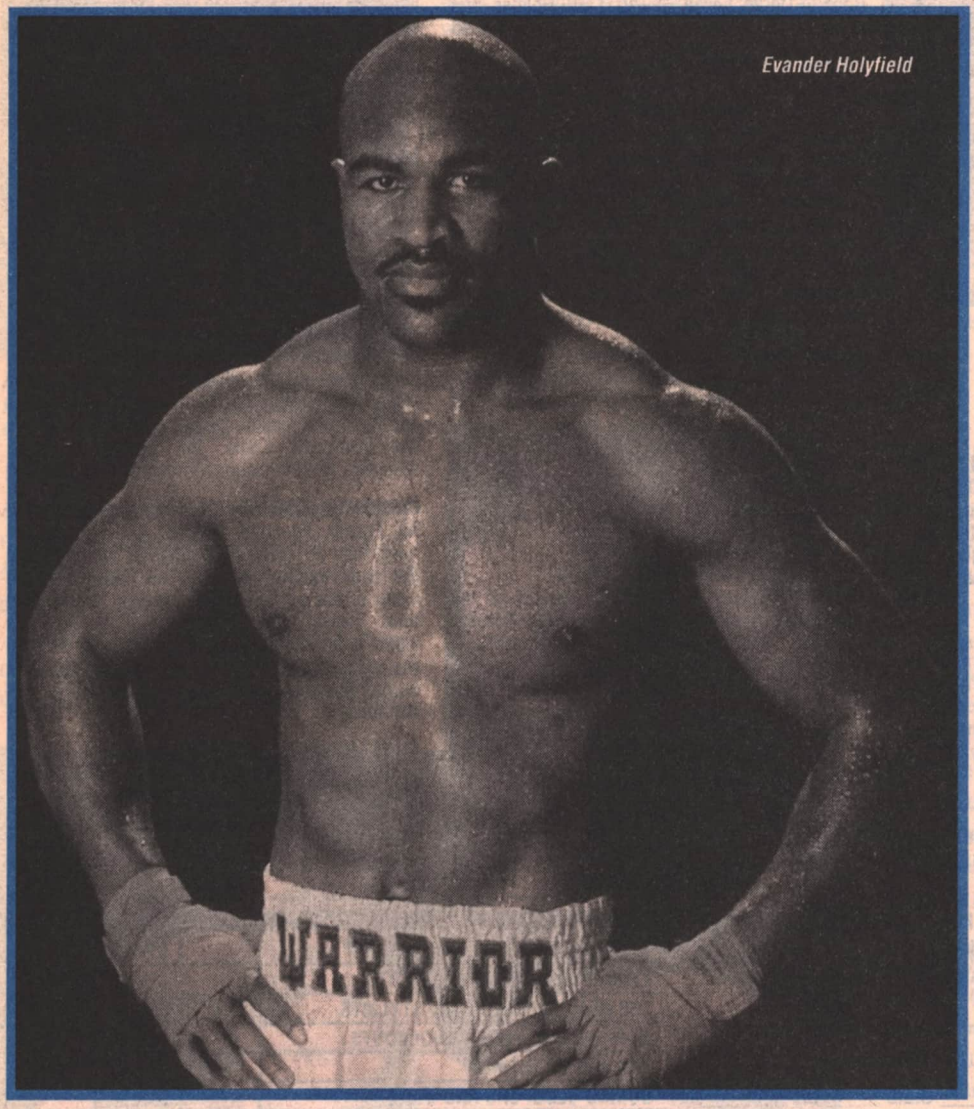
Our Exclusive Annual Report

THE STATE OF THE GAME



Evander Holyfield

By William Dettloff

Don't think that the state of the game is at an all-time low just because Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis closed 1997 by deciding to fight undeserving contenders rather than one another. While '97 brought us a smattering of dream fights in the form of Holyfield-Tyson II, De La Hoya-Whitaker, and Tapia-Romero, and some nice surprises such as Hamed-Kelley and Quartey-Lopez, '98 promises to be even better. Hamed's assault on the shores of America is firmly underway, De La Hoya is as willing as ever, and Angel Manfredy proved himself a burgeoning star. Also, Felix Trinidad has to be in a superfight sooner or later, and some guy named Jones is finally ready to take on the heavyweights. All-time low? Nonsense. You just need to know where to look.

HEAVYWEIGHTS

What a difference a year can make. WBA/IBF champ Holyfield, 35, at this time last year preparing to prove that his '96 victory over Mike Tyson was no fluke, may be fighting better than ever and shows no signs of slowing down. The once-maligned Lewis, the WBC titlist, is now viewed, at worst, as the second-best big man on the planet,

HEAVYWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Lennox Lewis

Best Boxer
Evander Holyfield

Most Protected
Vaughn Bean

Is He *Still* Around?
Greg Page

Matchmaker's Dream
Lennox Lewis-Evander Holyfield

Best-Kept Secret
Zeljko Mavrovic

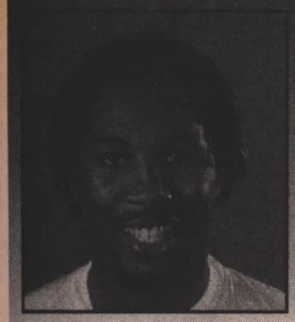
Deserves A Title Shot
Ray Mercer

Most Fun To Watch
David Tua

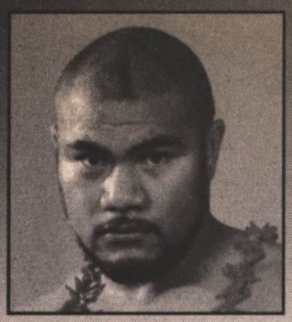
On The Way Down
Tim Witherspoon

Underrated
Chris Byrd

Best Fight In 1997
Darroll Wilson KO 4 Courage Tshabalala



Lennox Lewis



David Tua

almost solely by virtue of his annihilation of Andrew Golota. And Michael Moorer, a year ago the pacifist's pacifist, finally went to war as in his light heavyweight days, only to succumb to Holyfield's will in an entertaining brawl. Changes, changes ...

On the other hand, the division's young guns progressed with varying results. Golota has been all but forgotten, and David Tua, still smarting from his loss to Ike Ibeabuchi, as well as shoulder surgery, has been slow to return to the fray. The competition of Kirk Johnson and Chris Byrd improved only marginally. On the up side, Michael Grant was impressive in demolishing David Izon in January, and Hasim Rahman stepped up with victories over Obed Sullivan and Jesse Ferguson. Look for Grant and Byrd to supplant Henry Akinwande and Golota near the top of the ratings before the year's end.

Think About It: Even if Holyfield and Lewis get together to unify the title, how long do you think the blessed union will last? The same obstacles that prevent unified titles in the lower weights—each organization requiring different mandatory defenses, to name one—wreak the same havoc in boxing's glamour division. The only heavyweight with enough clout and the right connections to dictate to the organizations is Mike Tyson. The fact that there is already talk of him challenging Holyfield if his license is restored in July—still a big if—is all the evidence you need.

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Another low-profile year for boxing's lowest-profile division. It speaks volumes about a weight class when 35-year-old Uriah Grant, probably the division's most recognizable name, which is sad enough in its own right, finally wins a world title in his third try by beating Adolpho Washington, who won it in his fourth try. (We can point to Al Cole's ill-advised move to heavyweight as the reason for Grant's success.) Grant, of course, then lost the same title in his first defense to neophyte Imamu Mayfield. Then, just when we thought the division had finally found a leader in Nate Miller, who defended the WBA title four times, in strides the gutsy but largely talentless Fabrice Tiozzo to take the belt. Who will be the division's leader now? WBC titleholder Juan Carlos Gomez? If you've ever even seen him fight, you're already a step ahead of 99 percent of the rest of the world's boxing fans.

At this time last year, we were talking about a proposed Roy Jones-Adolpho Washington bout that never did come off. Looking back, we're thankful it didn't happen. We'd rather see Jones against a heavyweight of even moderate ability than against even the best the cruiserweights have to offer, which isn't much.

Think About It: What is it about 176-190 pound men that bores us so? Weren't some of the best heavyweight champs ever—Marciano, Dempsey, Louis—around that same weight? In its 18-year history,

CRUISERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Nate Miller

Best Boxer
James Toney

Most Protected
Vassiliy Jirov

Is He *Still* Around?
Bobby Crabtree

Matchmaker's Dream
Juan Carlos Gomez-Fabrice Tiozzo

Best-Kept Secret
Don Diego Poeder

Deserves A Title Shot
Arthur Williams

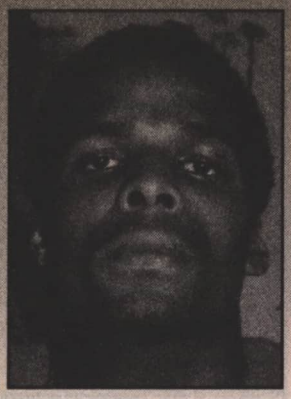
Most Fun To Watch
Terry Ray

On The Way Down
Uriah Grant

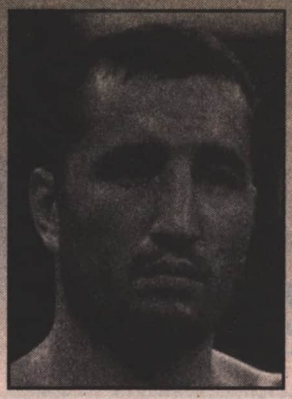
Underrated
Imamu Mayfield

Best Fight In 1997
Don Diego Poeder KO 10 Terry Ray

Darroll Wilson rebounds against Courage Tshabalala



Imamu Mayfield



Fabrice Tiozzo

the division's best fighters remain Holyfield, who never planned to stay there, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, a puffed up light heavyweight, and Cole and Orlin Norris, two fighters we would never call exciting. Over the same time period, the two divisions immediately above and below—heavyweight and light heavyweight—have produced Larry Holmes, Tyson, Michael Spinks, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, Marvin Johnson, Matthew Saad Muhammad, and more. Tell us: What was the reason again for creating this division?

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Jones made the most emphatic statement of the year in this division with his first-round blowout of Montell Griffin in the sequel to his earlier disqualification loss. And while we don't blame Jones for seeking bigger challenges in the land of the heavyweights, the move does erase what could have been some interesting matchups had he stayed put. A bout against awkward and powerful Dariusz Michalczewski, who ended Virgil Hill's long reign, would have done huge business in Germany, and although any fight involving Michael Nunn is a guaranteed sleeper, stylistically, it would have been intriguing to see he and Jones square off for the WBC title.

Even with Jones' departure, some intriguing possibilities remain. A Hill-Lou Del Valle rematch, this time with Del Valle's WBA title on the line, is a solid matchup and was scheduled to happen in February, until Del Valle pulled out with an injury. And William Guthrie, despite losing the IBF title by knockout against Reggie Johnson in early February, is a talented and exciting fighter who matches up well with anyone in the division. Yes, Nunn, who is slated to face Graciano Rocchigiani for the WBC title vacated by Jones, is still around, as is horribly mundane Frank Tate, so the news isn't all good. But the light heavyweights offer a better cast right now than they have in years.

Think About It: For whatever reason, the light heavyweights have a higher-than-average German presence in their ranks, and have for the last several years. Long-time IBF kingpin Henry Maske, who retired after losing to Hill, is German, and so is Michalczewski (actually, Michalczewski is from Poland, but he now lives and fights in Germany). Highly rated Graciano Rocchigiani is also

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Roy Jones

Best Boxer
Roy Jones

Most Protected
Antonio Tarver

Is He *Still* Around?
Donny Lalonde

Matchmaker's Dream
Roy Jones-Dariusz Michalczewski

Best-Kept Secret
Reggie Johnson

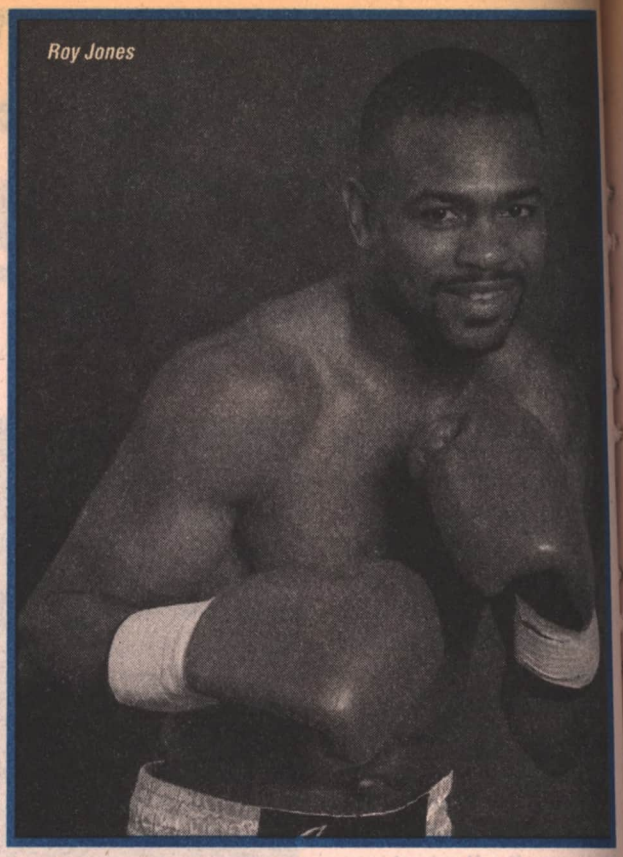
Deserves A Title Shot
Drake Thadzi

Most Fun To Watch
Dariusz Michalczewski

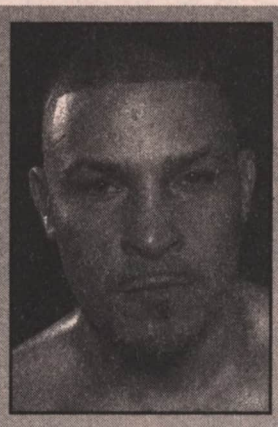
On The Way Down
Frank Tate

Underrated
Montell Griffin

Best Fight In 1997
Lou Del Valle KO 8 Eddy Smulders



Roy Jones



Lou Del Valle

Dariusz Michalczewski

German. Makes you wonder what they're putting in that sauerbraten.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

At this time last year, the fighters in this division were doing what the light heavyweights are doing now: rejoicing (or lamenting, depending on your point of view) Roy Jones' decision to move up in weight. The super middleweights have never quite gotten over the loss of their only marquee name, and it shows. Steve Collins' surprising mid-year retirement announcement effectively reduced an already dismally low number of big-fight possibilities, and Robin Reid, a good-looking, charismatic banger who some thought might help fill the void, stalled at the hands of the ancient, dreadfully boring Thulane "Sugar Boy" Malinga, losing the WBC title in the process. The division's best fighter, WBA titlist Frankie Liles, continues to meet obscure challengers on poorly attended Don King shows, and new IBF champ Charles Brewer remains largely untested.

There is hope for the future, however. British prospect Joe Calzaghe continues to impress our friends in England, especially with his win over a comebacking Chris Eubank, and veteran Thomas Tate emerged as a title threat with his surprising kayo of Joseph Kiwanuka. Kiwanuka, provided he can rebound, will give any of the champions trouble.

Think About it: How bad off is this division? In what was arguably the biggest fight of the year, at least in terms of promotion, 38-year-old Herol Graham decisioned 34-year-old

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Frankie Liles

Best Boxer
Thulane Malinga

Most Protected
Robin Reid

Is He *Still* Around?
Kevin Pompey

Matchmaker's Dream
Frankie Liles-Joseph Kiwanuka

Best-Kept Secret
Joe Calzaghe

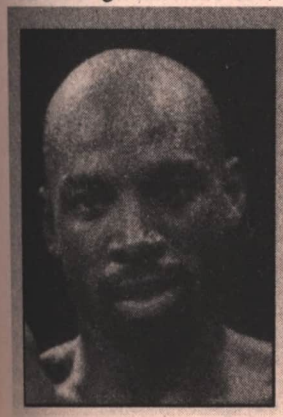
Deserves A Title Shot
Thomas Tate

Most Fun To Watch
Joseph Kiwanuka

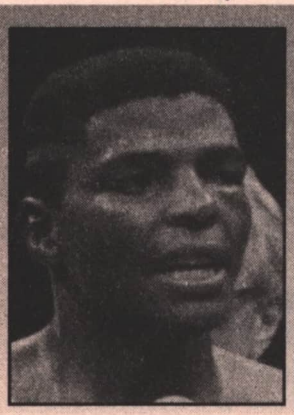
On The Way Down
Vinny Pazienza

Underrated
Antoine Byrd

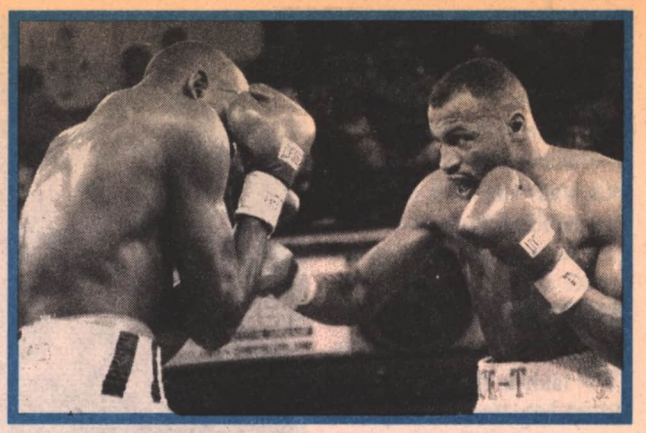
Best Fight In 1997
Thomas Tate KO 11 Joseph Kiwanuka



Frank Liles



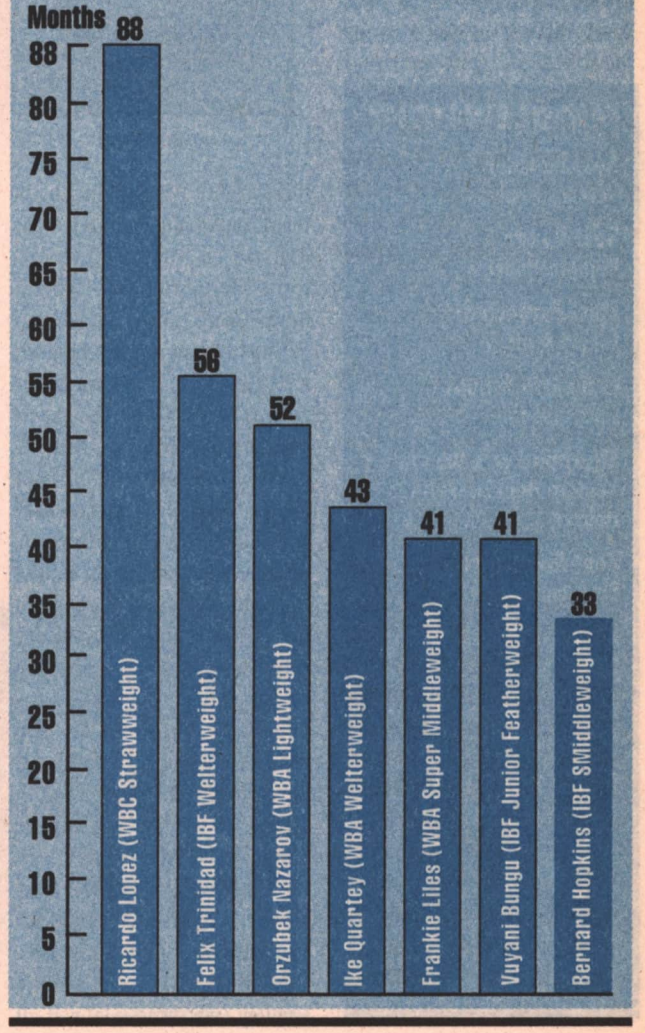
Sugarboy Malinga



Thomas Tate punishes Joseph Kiwanuka

LONGEST-REIGNING CHAMPIONS

The following graph displays the game's most established champions, along with the number of consecutive months each has held the title. This year's additions include Ike Quartey, Frankie Liles, Vuyani Bungu, and Bernard Hopkins. Gone from last year are Yuri Arbachakov, who retired, and Virgil Hill, Pernell Whitaker, and Hiroshi Kawashima, each of whom was unseated.



Vinny Pazienza, much to the delight of the British fight establishment who revere Graham (a safety-first mover who makes Hector Camacho look bold) almost as much as they did Frank Bruno.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

We're not sure who was at fault in the legal battle IBF champ Bernard Hopkins had with former promoter Butch Lewis, and it really doesn't matter. What does matter is that since signing with America Presents, "The Executioner" has been busy, and we're the better for it. That's the good news. The bad news is that his competition has been sub-par; what was Simon Brown doing challenging for the middleweight title? Well, there's no one else out there, right? Wrong. And that's what makes the middleweight division so frustrating to follow. There are good fighters here—Hopkins, WBA champ William Joppy, WBC kingpin Keith Holmes, and Otis Grant rank as the best—but instead of fighting one another, they're busying themselves with Paul Vaden (Holmes' last defense) and Julio Cesar Green (Joppy's most recent opponent). It was thought by many that since both Joppy and Holmes are promoted by Don King, they would unify. It hasn't happened, though, and despite repeated assertions from all three champs that they'd like to unify, no such plans appear imminent. What a shame.

The lower half of the division still sports talent in Peter Venancio (another Joppy victim), Brian Barbosa, Lonnie Bradley (who was sidelined all year with a detached retina), and Dana Rosenblatt. Is the middleweight division as deep as it was even 10 years ago? Of course not. But it's better than it looks and would be better yet if the right fights were made.

Think About It: Hopkins is so thoroughly convinced that a unification tournament will never take place that, before his sixth-round kayo of Brown, he told the press that for lack of competition, he'd be perfectly willing to drop down to junior middleweight or jump up to super middleweight. The late, great Carlos Monzon, who made 14 successful middleweight title defenses over seven years, must be spinning in his grave.

MIDDLEWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Bernard Hopkins

Best Boxer
Bernard Hopkins

Most Protected
Lonnie Bradley

Is He *Still* Around?
John Mugabi

Matchmaker's Dream
Bernard Hopkins-Keith Holmes

Best-Kept Secret
Stephane Ouelette

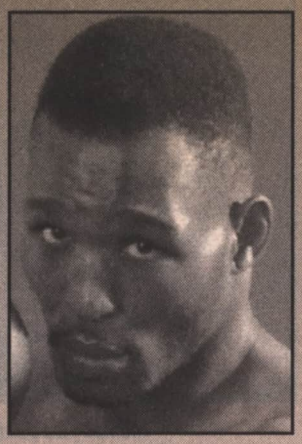
Deserves A Title Shot
Otis Grant

Most Fun To Watch
Brian Barbosa

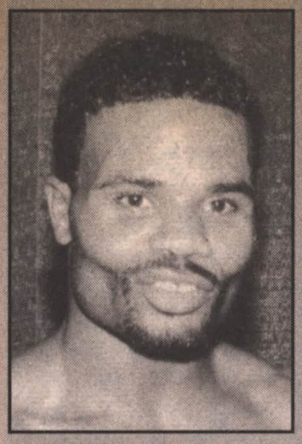
On The Way Down
John David Jackson

Underrated
Peter Venancio

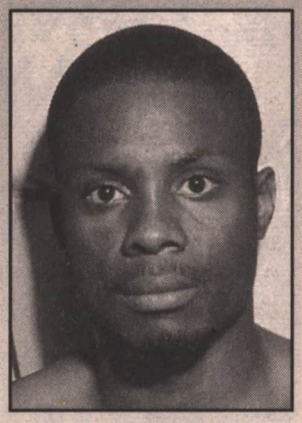
Best Fight In 1997
William Joppy W 12 Peter Venancio



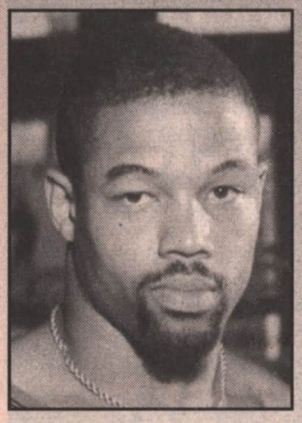
Bernard Hopkins



William Joppy



Keith Holmes



Otis Grant

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

If you're looking for the division of the future, look no further than right here. All those welterweights who have been mulling around seven pounds to the south will sooner or later make the jump and the fireworks will really start. As it was, the junior middleweights enjoyed an exciting year with Raul Marquez finally making the jump in class, winning the IBF title, and then getting butchered by the flawed but ever-entertaining Yory Boy Campas. Look for Campas to meet Oscar De La Hoya before the end of the year, and for WBA champ Laurent Boudouani to get into the mix as well, possibly against IBF welterweight king Felix Trinidad in a bombs-away shootout. (With the winner vs. De La Hoya?) And WBC champ Keith Mullings, conqueror of Terry Norris, can be counted out against no one.

Want more? Winky Wright,

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Laurent Boudouani

Best Boxer
Winky Wright

Most Protected
Jason Papillion

Is He *Still* Around?
Jorge Vaca

Matchmaker's Dream
Laurent Boudouani-Yory Boy Campas

Best-Kept Secret
Tony Marshall

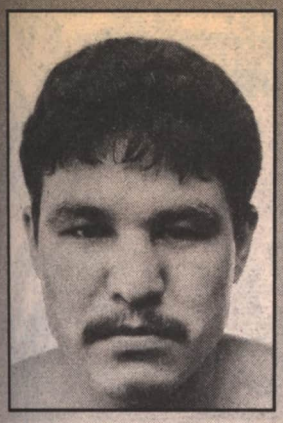
Deserves A Title Shot
Verno Phillips

Most Fun To Watch
Yory Boy Campas

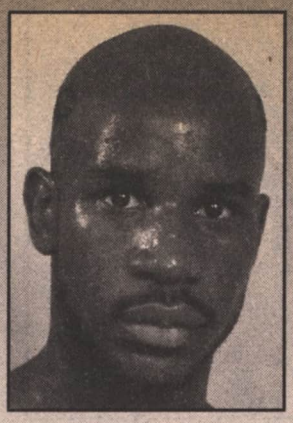
On The Way Down
Romallis Ellis

Underrated
Bronco McKart

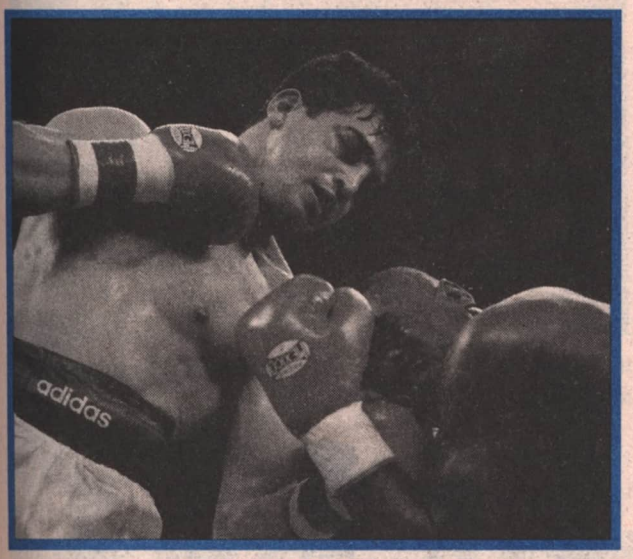
Best Fight In 1997
Yory Boy Campas KO 8 Raul Marquez



Yory Boy Campas



Keith Mullings



Laurent Boudouani plows into Benji Singleton

Bronco McKart, and Emmett Linton are all good enough to challenge, and don't forget Olympic gold medalist David Reid, who is being moved along at record pace by trainer Al Mitchell.

Think About It: Last year at this time, we were anticipating a Norris-Trinidad showdown, the superfight that would never happen. Since that time, Norris was starched by Mullings, while Trinidad has been inexcusably and inexplicably idle, showing up only to blow out no-hoper Troy Waters in the first round at Madison Square Garden in August. The win somehow garnered "Tito," a Don King fighter, number-one contender status in the WBC, despite the fact that it was Trinidad's first junior middleweight bout. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

WELTERWEIGHTS

Boxing's most talent-laden division didn't produce all the dream fights we hoped it would in '97, but it did give us De La Hoya-Whitaker and Ike Quartey-Jose Luis Lopez. It also gave us De La Hoya against David Kamau, Hector Camacho, and Wilfredo Rivera, good matchups all for "The Golden Boy," who was busier than any other of the game's pound-for-pound entrants. Before '98 is halfway through, we'll also see Quartey-Whitaker in "Sweet Pea's" swan song, and, hopefully, another big fight for Lopez, who emerged as the division's sleeper with his draw against Quartey. Kostya Tszyu, who last year at this time was thought of as an eventual welterweight opponent for De La Hoya, had his plans abruptly changed and remained at junior welter, where he'll stay. Conspicuously absent from all the fun was IBF champ Felix Trinidad, who fought only but once the entire year, that at junior middleweight.

While a talented bunch, the lower half of the division pales in comparison to the group at the top. Still, Bolillo Gonzalez, Vernon Forrest, Diobelys Hurtado, and Shannan Taylor represent an interesting mix of styles and will engage in their own battles for welterweight supremacy after the class of the division have moved on.

Think About It: Not since the early-'80s has there been a collection of welterweight stars as talented as those we're watching now. Back then, Sugar Ray Leonard, Thomas Hearns, Wilfred Benitez, and Roberto Duran ruled the welterweight roost before moving on to battle further in the junior middleweight division. De La Hoya, Trinidad, Lopez, and Quartey will surely do the same. Really, the fun is just beginning.

WELTERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Oscar De La Hoya

Best Boxer
Pernell Whitaker

Most Protected
Freddy Ladd

Is He *Still* Around?
Lonnie Smith

Matchmaker's Dream
Oscar De La Hoya-Felix Trinidad

Best-Kept Secret
Vernon Forrest

Deserves A Title Shot
Bolillo Gonzalez

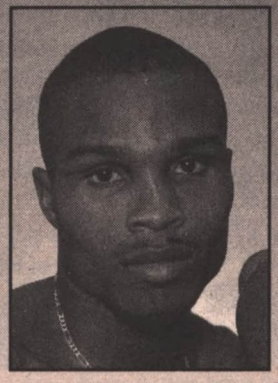
Most Fun To Watch
Jose Luis Lopez

On The Way Down
Oba Carr

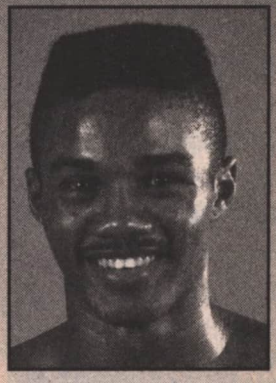
Underrated
Tony Martin

Best Fight In 1996
Raul Frank W 12
Purcell Miller

Oscar De La Hoya



Ike Quartey



Felix Trinidad

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

This was supposed to be the weight class through which developing star Kostya Tszyu would tear on his way to a date with De La Hoya, but when "Cool" Vince Phillips came along and annexed the title, things got a little strange. Phillips now ranks as the class of the division, and as we went to press was preparing to face powerhitter Alfonso Sanchez in his third defense of the IBF title. Meanwhile, Tszyu, after a blistering knockout of Ismael Chavez, awaits the winner of the on-again, off-again, on-again Julio Cesar Chavez-Miguel Angel Gonzalez bout for the vacant WBC belt. And what the heck has happened to Frankie Randall? We haven't heard from him since slick-boxing Khalid Rahilou took the WBA title from him in early-'97. Confused yet? You're not alone.

The mid-section of the division features veterans, veterans, and more veterans. Giovanni Parisi, Hector Lopez, Rafael Ruelas, and John-John Molina have enough experience between them to qualify for social security, but none has what it takes to upset Phillips, Tszyu, or Rahilou. All the great fights here are at the top.

Think About It: Five years ago, THE RING's top 10 junior welterweights, in order: Chavez, Whitaker, Juan Coggi, Terrence Alli, Charles Murray, Rafael Pineda, Carlos Gonzalez, Hector Lopez, Greg Haugen, Kostya Tszyu. Of the 10, three are still there: Tszyu, Chavez, and, surprisingly, Lopez. Think it's time yet for Lopez to get a big fight?

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Kostya Tszyu

Best Boxer
Vince Phillips

Most Protected
Sharmba Mitchell

Is He *Still* Around?
Tony Lopez

Matchmaker's Dream
Kostya Tszyu-Miguel Angel Gonzalez

Best-Kept Secret
Reggie Green

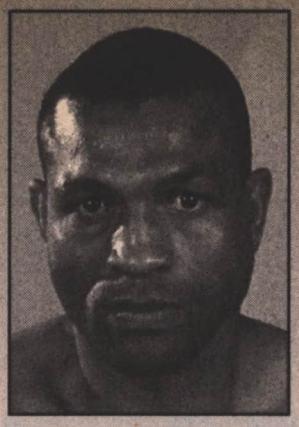
Deserves A Title Shot
Hector Lopez

Most Fun To Watch
Kostya Tszyu

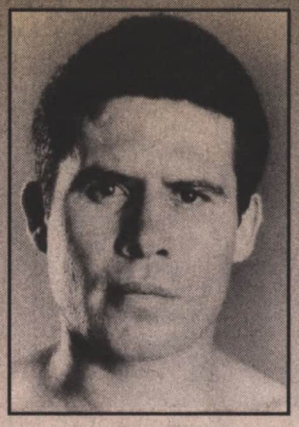
On The Way Down
Ray Oliveira

Underrated
Khalid Rahilou

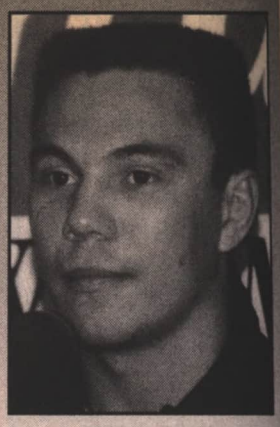
Best Fight In 1997
Vince Phillips KO 10 Kostya Tszyu



Vince Phillips



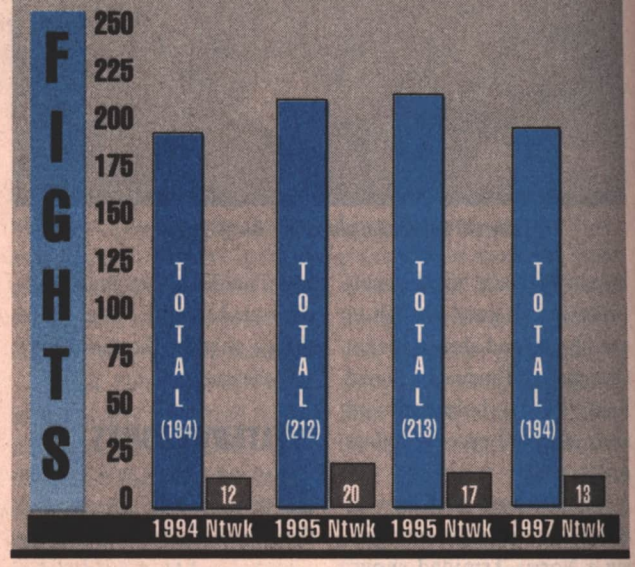
Julio Cesar Chavez



Kostya Tszyu

BOXING ON TV

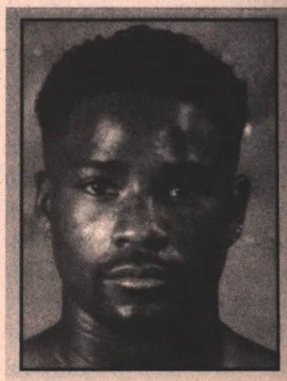
Who says there are never any fights on television anymore? The graph below illustrates the number of bouts aired over each of the last four years. They include cable-televised main events only, and all commercial, pay-per-view, and pay-TV bouts. As you can see, the dropoff in '97 wasn't that significant, and, interestingly, matched the total number of bouts aired in '94.



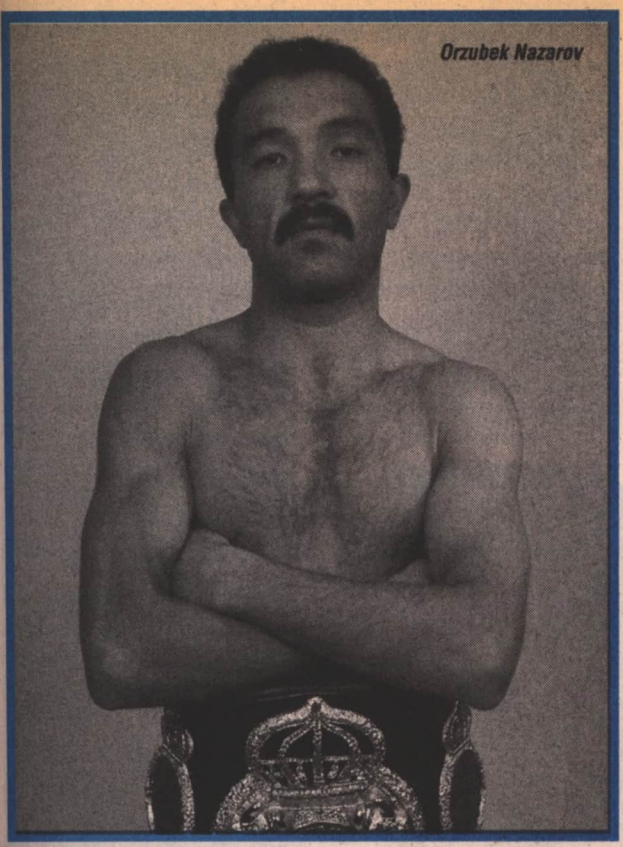
LIGHTWEIGHTS

How can a division be expected to thrive when its best fighter is largely inactive? WBA champ Orzubek Nazarov, who fought just once in '96, improved only slightly in '97, climbing the ring steps twice. He made the most of his appearances, however, destroying talented Leavander Johnson and no-hoper Oscar Lopez. On the plus side, "Sugar" Shane Mosley finally got his long-awaited title shot, and took advantage of it by dethroning South African windmill Phillip Holiday. Look for Nazarov, Mosley, and tough little WBC champ Stevie Johnston to avoid one another like the plague while they go up against an average cast of lightweight contenders.

Johnston posted an impressive unanimous decision win



Steve Johnston



Orzubek Nazarov

LIGHTWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Orzubek Nazarov

Best Boxer
Stevie Johnston

Most Protected
Cesar Bazan

Is He *Still* Around?
Marty Jakubowski

Matchmaker's Dream
Orzubek Nazarov-Shane Mosley

Best-Kept Secret
Artur Grigorijan

Deserves A Title Shot
Israel Cardona

Most Fun To Watch
Orzubek Nazarov

On The Way Down
Ivan Robinson

Underrated
Jesse James Leija

Best Fight In 1997
Israel Cardona W 10 David Sample

over slick George Scott in February, and is set for a June mandatory against little-known Mexican contender Cesar Bazan. Ever resourceful veteran Jesse James Leija simply isn't ready yet to concede his retirement, and Connecticut's Israel Cardona is a busy, left-hook specialist who enjoyed an outstanding year. Look for "Pito" to secure a title shot in the first half of '98.

Think About It: Just how good is Nazarov? Sadly, American boxing fans will probably never know, as "Gussie" fights primarily out of Japan. Those who have watched him throughout his career are convinced that he would destroy Mosley almost without breaking a sweat. If you were fortunate enough to see Nazarov take apart the highly regarded Johnson early last year, you know what we mean.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Due largely to IBF champ Arturo Gatti's life and death struggle with Gabe Ruelas, and WBC kingpin

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Arturo Gatti

Best Boxer
Genaro Hernandez

Most Protected
Djamel Lifa

Is He *Still* Around?
Jorge Paez

Matchmaker's Dream
Arturo Gatti-Angel Manfredy II

Best-Kept Secret
Jesus Chavez

Deserves A Title Shot
Angel Manfredy

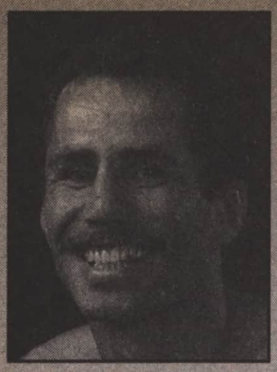
Most Fun To Watch
Arturo Gatti

On The Way Down
Tracy Patterson

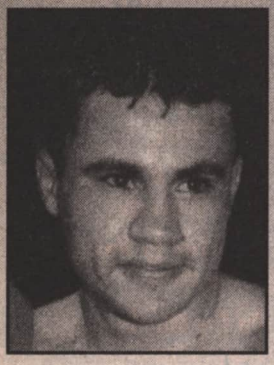
Underrated
Yong Soo Choi

Best Fight In 1997
Arturo Gatti KO 5 Gabe Ruelas

Angel Manfredy jolts Arturo Gatti



Genaro Hernandez



Jesus Chavez

Genaro Hernandez' heroic battle with Azumah Nelson, the junior lightweights enjoyed a banner year. Angel Manfredy's non-title victory over Gatti in January of '98 didn't hurt either, nor did Hernandez' exciting battle with Carlos "Famous" Hernandez in November. The rest of '98 looks just as promising.

Look for Mexico's power-punching Jesus Chavez to make his move into the division's top echelon, possibly against Tracy Patterson. Don't count out Robert Garcia, either, or even Ruelas, whose stock finally went back up again after his war with Gatti. WBA champion Yong Soo Choi is the division's no-name champion, but don't expect him to lose the title anytime soon. And at this time last year, we were expecting Floyd Mayweather Jr. to have moved up to the lightweight division by now, but the cocky Olympian is instead calling out Hernandez, already angling for a title shot. He'll probably get it before the year is through, as will Cuban refugee and former Olympic gold medalist Joel Casamayor, who has been ready for a step up in competition for the last year.

Think About It: As much as Gatti has talked about his desire to move up to lightweight, the record shows that his best performances have come at junior lightweight. Compare his bouts against Wilson Rodriguez and Gabe Ruelas, fought at 130 pounds, with those against Manfredy and Calvin Grove, which were fought at 135. Against both Grove and Manfredy, he was hit just as frequently, cut and swelled just as quickly, and, significantly, failed to seriously hurt either fighter. Manfredy took everything and never blinked, and Grove submitted more than anything else. Rodriguez and Ruelas, by comparison, were knocked out in explosive fashion.

FEATHERWEIGHTS

There's lots going on in this division, but make no mistake about it: '97 belonged to Naseem Hamed, who defended the IBF title he won by stopping Tom Johnson last February only once. The fact that his stock suffered not a bit when he relinquished the title before crossing the big pond to blast out Kevin Kelley in one of the most exciting fights of the year speaks to his charisma and his punch. Provided he gets past the rejuvenated Kennedy McKinney, expect Hamed's star to burn brighter still in '98.

The same cannot be said for 37-year-old WBA kingpin Wilfredo Vazquez, who was lucky to end the year with his title intact. The listless performance he turned in while getting a gift nod over the inexperienced Genaro Rios in November showed that, finally, Vazquez may be ready to be taken. Clearly, he is at this point a full notch below WBC champ Luisito Espinosa, who seems from all evidence to be improving with age, as is IBF champ Hector Lizarraga, who claimed the vacant title with a dominant performance against Welcome Ncita. Also, if his brittle hands hold up, look for murderous-punching phenom Angel Vazquez to challenge for a world title before '98 is through.

Think About it: How refreshing is Hamed as compared to other featherweight names of the last 10 years? Consider the lineup: Calvin Grove, Marcos Villasana, Yung Kyun Park, Troy Dorsey,

FEATHERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Naseem Hamed

Best Boxer
Antonio Cermeno

Most Protected
Wilfredo Vazquez

Is He *Still* Around?
Manuel Medina

Matchmaker's Dream
Naseem Hamed-Junior Jones

Best-Kept Secret
Angel Vazquez

Deserves A Title Shot
Freddie Norwood

Most Fun To Watch
Naseem Hamed

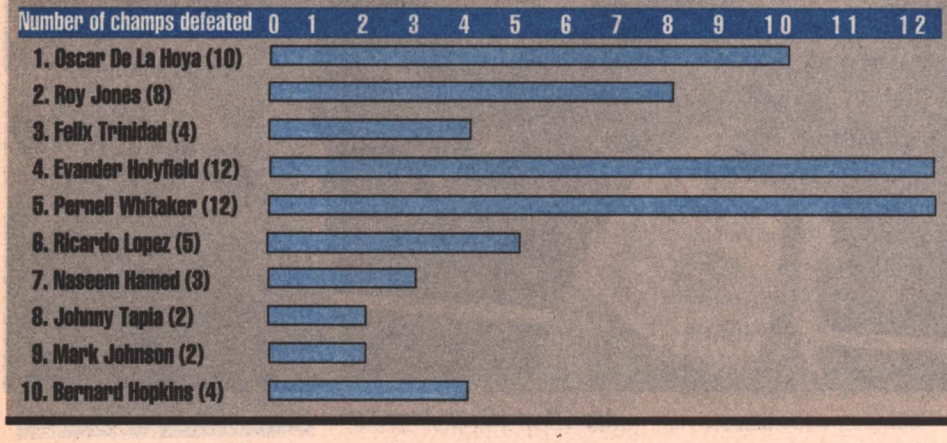
On The Way Down
Kevin Kelley

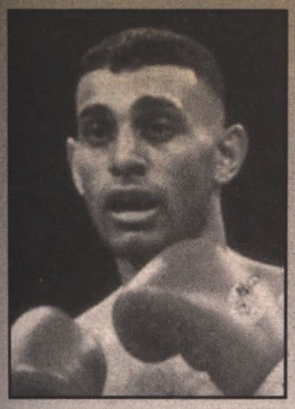
Underrated
Luisito Espinosa

Best Fight In 1997
Naseem Hamed KO 4 Kevin Kelley

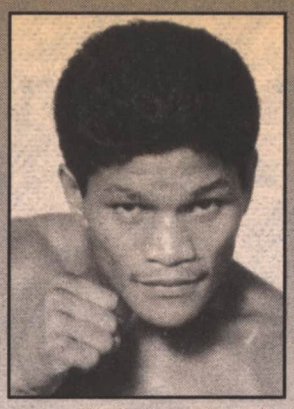
CHAMPS vs. CHAMPS

One of the best ways to determine a champion's worth—especially one that's been around a while—is to count the number of world champions he's beaten. Here's how THE RING'S pound-for-pound entrants stack up against one another:





Naseem Hamed



Luisito Espinosa

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Junior Jones

Best Boxer
Vuyani Bungu

Most Protected
Spencer Oliver

Is He *Still* Around?
Vincenzo Belcastro

Matchmaker's Dream
Erik Morales-Marco Antonio Barrera

Best-Kept Secret
Enrique Sanchez

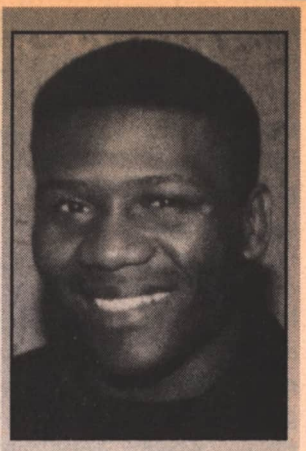
Deserves A Title Shot
Kennedy McKinney

Most Fun To Watch
Marco Antonio Barrera

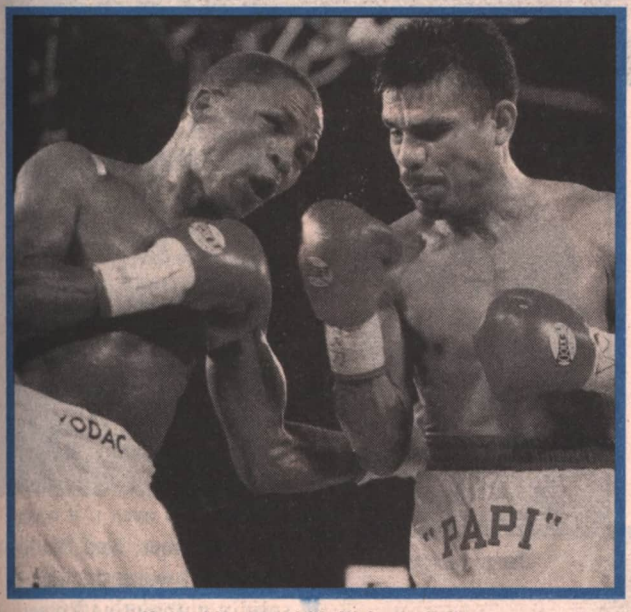
On The Way Down
Daniel Zaragoza

Underrated
Kennedy McKinney

Best Fight In 1997
Kennedy McKinney KO 4 Junior Jones



Vuyani Bungu



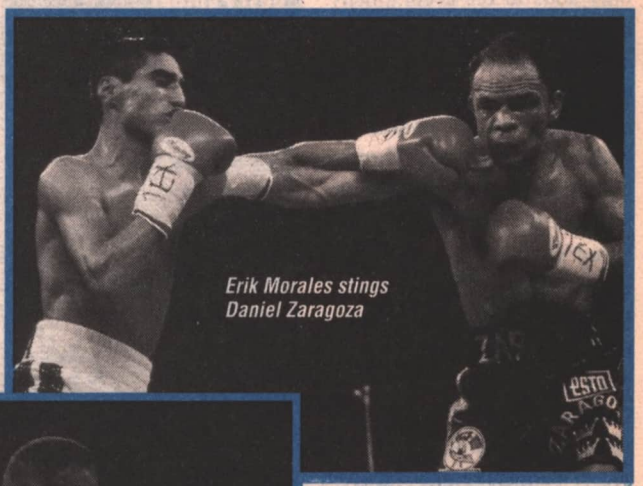
Hector Lizarraga drills Welcome Ncita

Manuel Medina, Paul Hodkinson, Goyo Vargas, Eloy Rojas, and Alejandro Gonzalez, to name a few. Some good fighters in the mix, but largely a colorless group. Only three others—Jeff Fenech, Jorge Paez, and Kelley—generated any appreciable interest, and all appear downright bland in comparison.

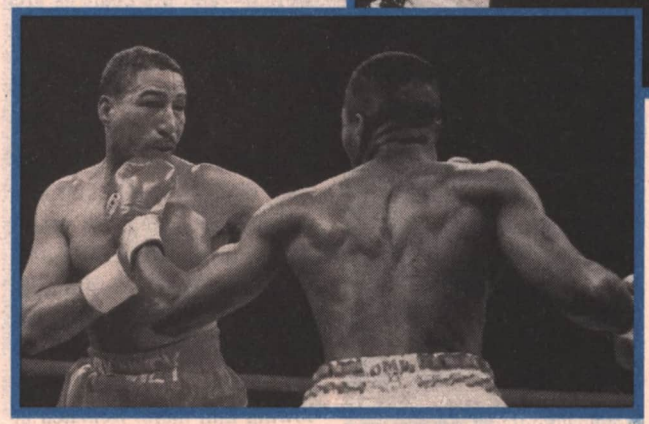
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

The welterweights may have the bigger names and a larger representation in the pound-for-pound rankings, but when the talk turns to depth and big-fight possibilities, the 147-pound crew may have to take a back seat to the junior feathers.

His knockout loss to Kennedy McKinney notwithstanding, Junior Jones remains among the most marketable and exciting 122-pounders on the planet, based on his two stirring wins over Marco Antonio Barrera. He may still turn out to be the Thomas Hearns of the lighter weights. Barrera, who was inactive for most of the year following his second loss to "Poison," is too good not to re-enter the picture in '98, and the same goes for Wayne McCullough, who also took a sabbatical following his loss to that ageless wonder, Daniel Zaragoza. If those five don't do it for you, don't forget the underappreciated, long-reining IBF champ, Vuyani Bungu, and WBC champ Erik Morales, who came of age with his title-winning effort against Zaragoza. Still not convinced? Check out talented new WBA champion and Enrique Sanchez.



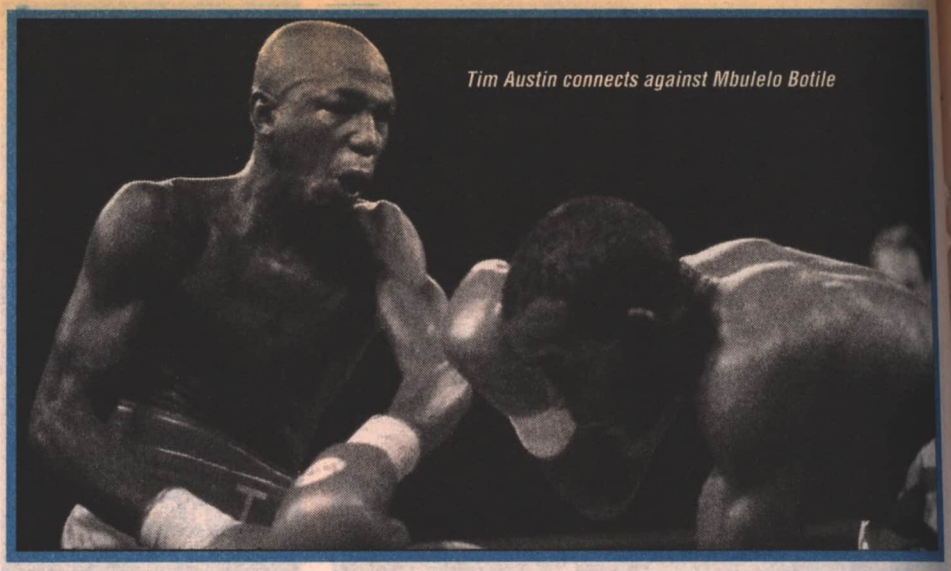
Erik Morales stings Daniel Zaragoza



Kennedy McKinney shocks Junior Jones

Think About It: Since winning the title from McKinney in August of '94, Bungu has defended the belt 10

times, against, among others, Felix Camacho, Jesus Salud, and McKinney. He is arguably the best all-around fighter in the division, and is among the game's longest-reigning champions. Still, he is often overlooked, particularly by American fight fans, when the best in this division are discussed. Why? There are two reasons, neither of them very good: First, he is a feather-fisted boxer who has scored only one knockout in his last 11 fights; second, since 1994, he's fought only twice outside South Africa—both times in the United States. Let's hope we learn to appreciate his talent before it's too late.



Tim Austin connects against Mbulelo Botile

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Hands down, the story of the year among the 118-pound crew was Tim Austin's startling kayo of long-time IBF champ Mbulelo Botile. That the Cincinnati, Ohio, native overcame a broken jaw to do it only adds to the accomplishment. Don't count out Botile, still one of the division's best fighters, who will secure a match with one of the champs before the year's end. Former champ Nana Konadu, along with Joichiro Tatsuyoshi, captured the WBA and WBC titles, respectively, during the year by besting Daorung Chuwatana and Sirimongkol Singmanassuk, and one of them will sooner or later be challenged by former IBF junior bantamweight and flyweight kingpin Danny Romero.

Romero, who decided after losing to arch-rival Johnny Tapia at junior bantam, that his future is at 118, adds a bit of glamour to a division. The bantams will also get a much-needed shot in the arm from Mexico's talented Adan Vargas, who should continue to climb the ratings ladder. Paulie Ayala, assuming he eventually steps up and faces one of the division's veterans—such as former champs Jorge Eliecer Julio or Daorung C. Siriwat—may make some noise. Even with the injection of fresh blood, however, the division is light years worse than it was back in the mid-'70s when Carlos Zarate, Alfonso Zamora, and Lupe Pintor were at the helm. How could we have known then that they were the good old days?

Think About It: If Romero can win a title at bantamweight—and his chances are good, considering the state of the division, along with the reputation and paydays he will bring to secure a shot—he will go a long way toward taking some of the sting out of his loss to Tapia last summer. It would be his third world title and even in this multi-championship era, that's still an accomplishment. Tapia could ruin all that, of course, by following him there. Rematch at 118, anyone?

BANTAMWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Tim Austin

Best Boxer
Mbulelo Botile

Most Protected
Paulie Ayala

Is He *Still* Around?
Greg Richardson

Matchmaker's Dream
Tim Austin-Nana Konadu

Best-Kept Secret
Adan Vargas

Deserves A Title Shot
Jorge Eliecer Julio

Most Fun To Watch
Danny Romero

On The Way Down
Sirimongkol Singmanassuk

Underrated
Nana Konadu

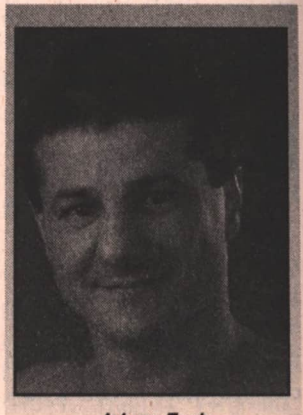
Best Fight In 1997
Tim Austin KO 8
Mbulelo Botile

Danny Romero

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT

Question: Before 1997, how many times in the history of the sport have we been able to say that one the biggest fights of the year came at this weight? If your answer is never, you're right on. Fortunately for us, Johnny Tapia and Danny Romero finally squared off this past summer, and even if it wasn't in Albuquerque, New Mexico, it was still worth the wait. In solidly outpointing Romero, Tapia may have positioned himself among the best in the division's 18-year history, just below Khaosai Galaxy, Gilberto Roman, Jiro Watanabe, and Sung Kil Moon.

As long as IBF champ Tapia stays put, he won't have much trouble maintaining that



Johnny Tapia

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Yokthai Sithoar

Best Boxer
Johnny Tapia

Most Protected
Jose Rafael Sosa

Is He *Still* Around?
Rodolfo Blanco

Matchmaker's Dream
Johnny Tapia-Gerry Penalosa

Best-Kept Secret
Dario Azuaga

Deserves A Title Shot
Joel Luna Zarate

Most Fun To Watch
Johnny Tapia

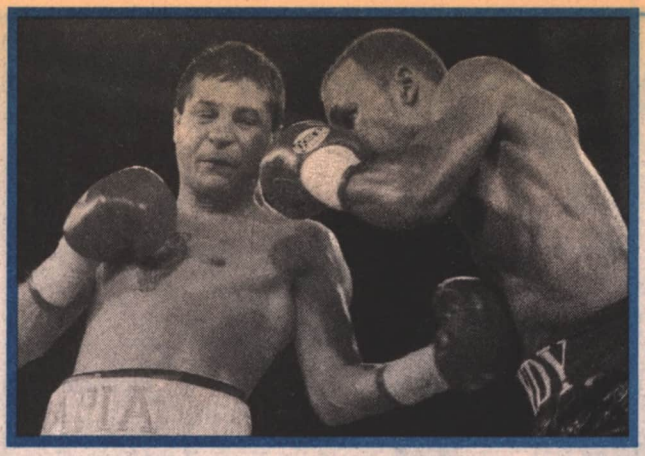
On The Way Down
Harold Grey

Underrated
Gerry Penalosa

Best Fight In 1997
Johnny Tapia W 12 Danny Romero

position. Neither WBC titlist Gerry Penalosa, who knocked off Hiroshi Kawashima, nor newly crowned WBA king Satoshi Iida, conqueror of Yokthai Sithoar, has what it takes to beat him if Romero couldn't. And the weak supporting cast of Hyung Chul Lee, Luis Bolano, and Julio Gamboa poses little threat. The downside is that Tapia needs big challenges and big names to bring out his best, and he'll get neither here.

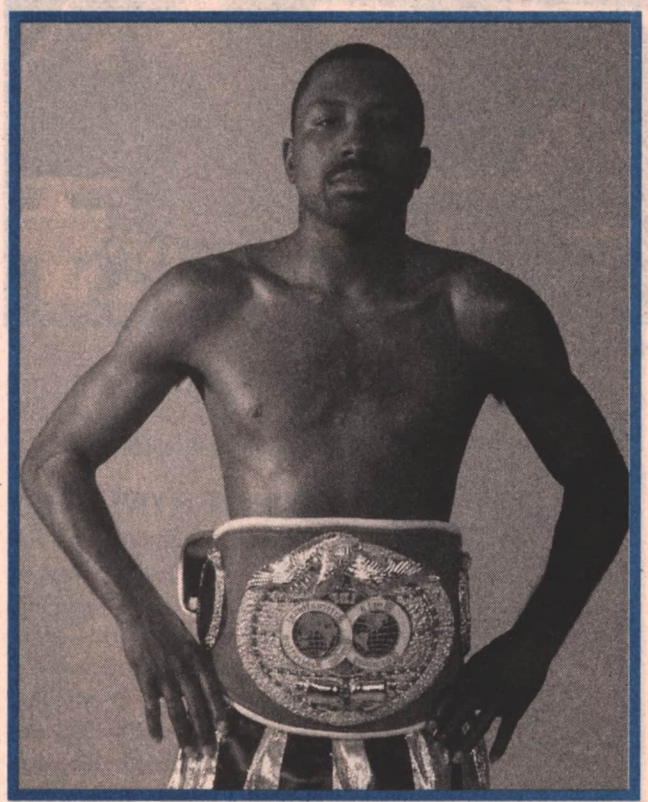
Think About It: Who would have thought—nearly three years after the fact—that Tapia's closest brush with defeat would remain his controversial 1995 decision win over slick-boxing Arthur Johnson? In front of a hometown crowd on a sweltering July afternoon, Tapia went after Johnson, who met him punch-for-punch, only to drop a close decision many thought should have gone his way. Is it a coincidence that most of Tapia's opponents since have been immobile bangers rather than skilled movers?



Johnny Tapia delivers against Andy Agosto

FLYWEIGHTS

Last year at this time, we were wishing for a matchup between WBA champion Mark Johnson and WBC titlist Yuri Arbachakov. We knew it would never happen, but we held out hope anyway. Our hopes were officially dashed after Arbachakov, who was injured and inactive for over a year, came back and got soundly thrashed by Chatchai Dutchboy Gym. His retirement announcement followed in January. So "Too Sharp," the world's best flyweight, settled for a February fight with Arthur Johnson, and dispatched one of the division's few legitimate contenders in just over a minute.



Mark Johnson

FLYWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Mark Johnson

Best Boxer
Mark Johnson

Most Protected
Eric Morel

Is He *Still* Around?
Luigi Camputaro

Matchmaker's Dream
Chatchai Dutchboy Gym-Mark Johnson

Best-Kept Secret
David Guerault

Deserves A Title Shot
Gilberto Gonzalez

Most Fun To Watch
Mark Johnson

On The Way Down
Cecilio Espino

Underrated
Jose Bonilla

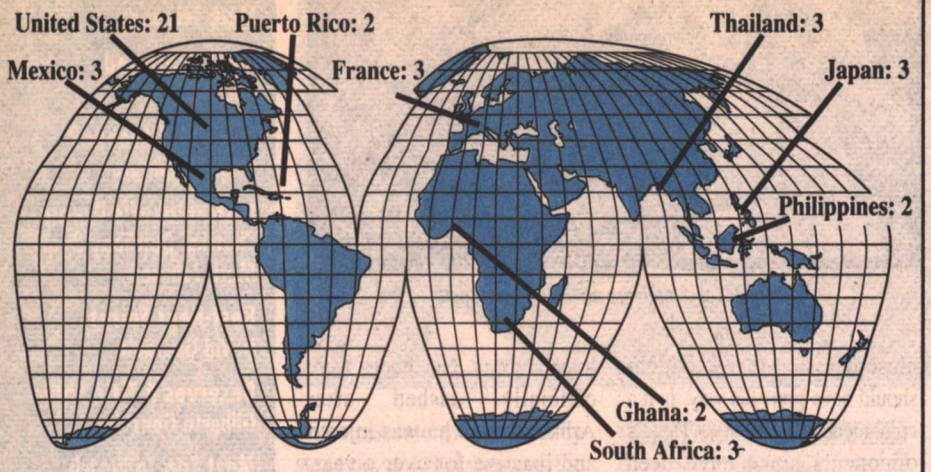
Best Fight In 1997
Carlos Salazar W 12 Antonio Ruiz

So who can possibly challenge Johnson at 112 pounds? WBA champ Jose Bonilla, who successfully defended the title three times during the year, might be able to last into the late rounds against Johnson, and WBC king Chatchai, a hard hitter in is own right, might prove interesting as well. Maybe we could even get a few rounds out of the smooth-boxing Saen Sor Ploenchit, and hey, veteran Carlos Salazar is still lurking around the top of the ratings. Who are we kidding? While the division isn't barren, there are few real challenges here for Johnson with the possible exception of Chatchai, which, of course, will never happen. Too Sharp will reign supreme here for as long as he wishes.

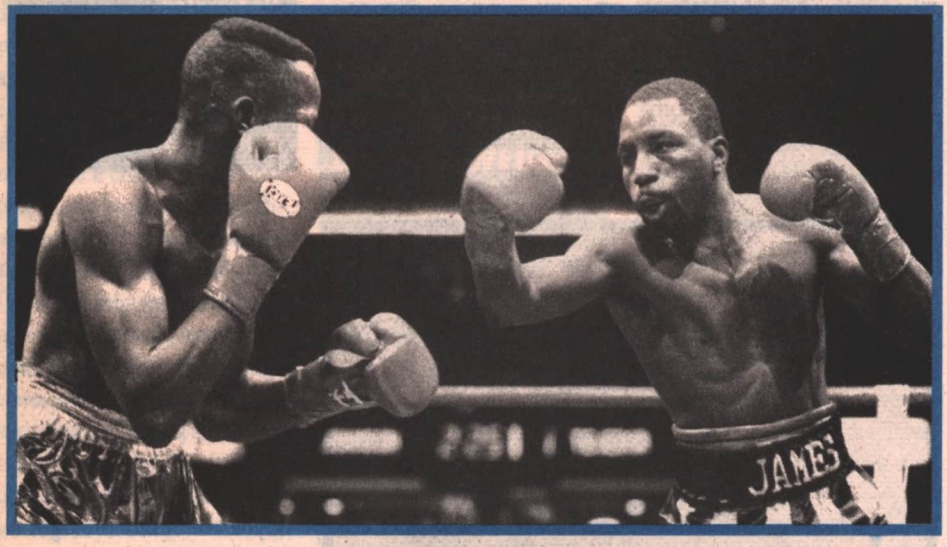
Think About It: The flyweight champions have given us some of the most colorful

THE CHAMPS BY COUNTRIES

The United States continues to lead the rest of the world in champions, increasing its total by five over last year. (Champions as of February 1, 1998.)

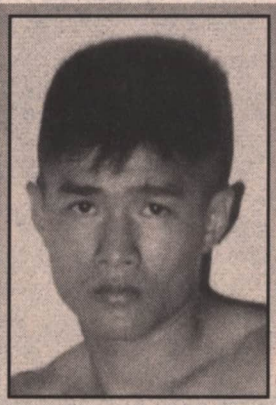


Six countries tied with 1: • Argentina • Colombia • England • South Korea • Nicaragua • Venezuela



Mark Johnson closes in on Francisco Tejedor

names in the sport's rich history. Consider the following monickers, all of which belonged to regional or world flyweight champions over the last 60 years: Corporal Izzy Schwartz (New York world title, 1927), Spider Pladner (National Boxing Association title, 1929), Midget Wolgast (New York world title, 1930), Rinty Monaghan, Fighting Harada, Guty Espadas, Leopard Tamakuma, Elvis Alvarez, and the ever-popular Phichit Sithbangprachan.



Chatchai Dutchboy Gym

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

You can't say the junior flyweights had a dull year. Mauricio Pastrana, who shocked the world—well, okay, not the whole world—with his upset of Michael Carbajal in early-'97, was stripped of the IBF title when he failed to show at the weigh-in for a defense against Manuel Herrera. Not to worry. After Anis Roga and Herrera fought to a technical draw for the vacant title, Pastrana found his way to the ring and promptly starched Herrera to reclaim the title. No harm done.

Pastrana, who came from obscurity to beat Carbajal, remains probably the second-best fighter in this division, right behind bomb-throwing Saman Sorjaturong. Out of the picture is Carbajal, who has been inactive and mulling retirement since his loss on cuts to "Baby" Jake Matlala. If you're looking for a superfight here, you're probably thinking of Ricardo Lopez moving up to face Sorjaturong. Although Lopez starched Sorjaturong in less than two rounds in '93, the Thai fighter has improved immeasurably since and could

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Saman Sorjaturong

Best Boxer
Yosam Choi

Most Protected
Phichitnoi C. Siriwat

Is He *Still* Around?
Javier Varguez

Matchmaker's Dream
Saman Sorjaturong-Ricardo Lopez

Best-Kept Secret
Nelson Dieppa

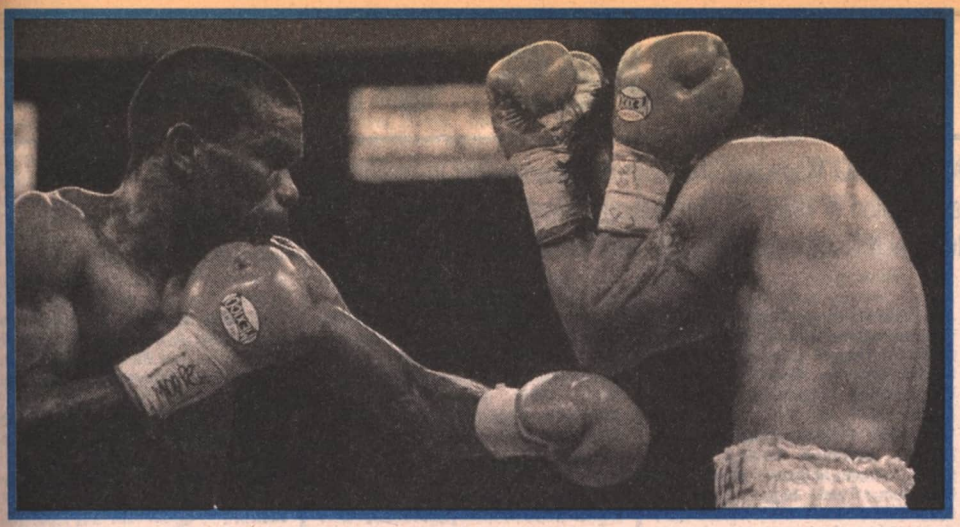
Deserves A Title Shot
Jake Matlala

Most Fun To Watch
Saman Sorjaturong

On The Way Down
Manuel Herrera

Underrated
Mauricio Pastrana

Best Fight In 1997
Jake Matlala KO 9 Michael Carbajal



Mauricio Pastrana fires at Michael Carbajal

Saman Sorjaturong

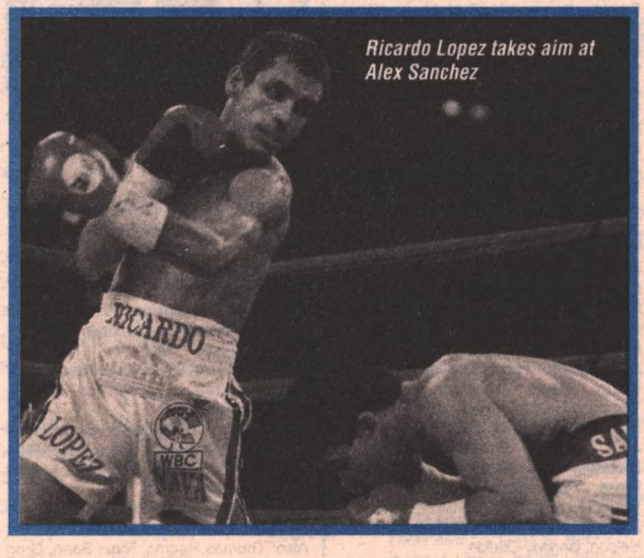
make it interesting. The only other bout worth hoping for would be Sorjaturong against Pastrana.

Think About It: If Michael Carbajal keeps to his decision to retire—a big if—the junior flyweight division will have lost quite probably its best champion ever. Jung Koo Chang, Yoko Gushiken, Myung Woo Yuh, and Hilario Zapata were all dominant junior fly champs, but Carbajal's consistency, toughness, and marquee value put him a notch above. His 1993 showdown with Chiquita Gonzalez, in which he rose from two knockdowns to score a crushing knockout, is the stuff of which great champions are made.

STRAWWEIGHTS

This is getting ridiculous. On these pages last year, we named Lopez-Nene Sanchez the Matchmaker's Dream and what happens? Sanchez makes it interesting for about the first 30 seconds (hence our selection of their bout as strawweight fight of the year) before "Finito" opens up and sends him crashing. Yes, Lopez is still one of the best fighters in the world, he is still the game's longest reigning champion, and, no, there still isn't any competition for him here. Former IBF champ Ratanapol Sor Vorapin was said to have been working toward a unification bout, but then he was upset and dethroned by unheralded Zolani Pethelo. Ratanapol, a wide-open puncher, might have made things interesting, and the bout may yet happen, but don't count on it. Pethelo-Lopez? Forget it. WBA champion Rosendo Alvarez was set at press time to take the bait in March, but his chances are slim.

Think About It: If Roy Jones can go from middleweight all the way up to heavyweight, why can't Lopez swallow a donut or two already and fight at 108? Is he satisfied to go down in the record books as the greatest strawweight to have ever lived? Maybe so. If that's the case, more power to him. We just expected more. ■



Ricardo Lopez takes aim at Alex Sanchez

STRAWWEIGHT

Best Puncher
Ricardo Lopez

Best Boxer
Ricardo Lopez

Most Protected
Myung Sup Park

Is He *Still* Around?
Ala Villamor

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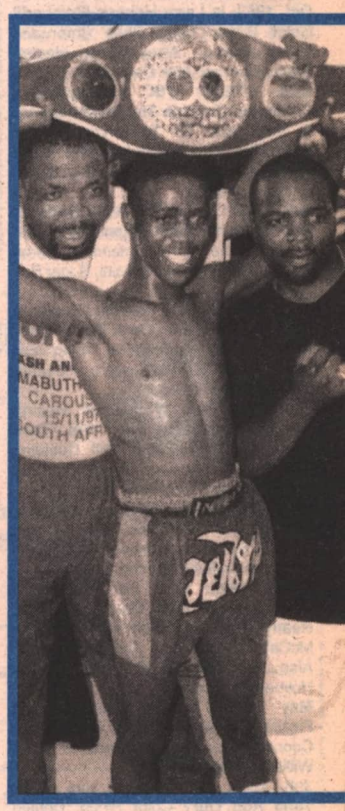


Zolani Pethelo

BACK ISSUES OF KO

Back issues of several editions of *KO Magazine*, the acknowledged leader in boxing journalism, are still available in limited quantity. Since its inception in 1980, *KO* has become known for its quality stories and columns and peak-action photographs. Plus, each issue contains a full-color centerfold. Don't delay. Supplies are running out!

April 1982: Holmes vs. Cooney—The 20 Crucial Questions On The Biggest Fight In History. Color Pinup: Gerry Cooney. Interview: Marvin Hagler. Also: Tony Ayala Jr., Baltazar brothers, Pedroza, Larry Hazzard, Joe Frazier.

June 1982: Wilfred Benitez: The King Of Style Conquers Duran. Color Pinup: Saoul Mamby. Interview: Dwight Braxton. Also: Art Frias, Saad Muhammad, Achievement '81.

March 1983: Sugar Ray Retires: An Era Comes To An End. Color Pinup: Jeff Chandler. Interview: Hilmer Kenty. Also: Don Curry, Pryor-Arguello I, Pedroza-Taylor, Roger Mayweather.

May 1983: Hector Camacho: "Ray Mancini Will Be An Easy Fight." Color Pinup: Michael Dokes. Also: Spinks-Qawi, John Tate, Year In Review.

June 1983: WBA Jr. Middleweight Champion Davey Moore: Bracing For Duran's Last Stand. Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Pinklon Thomas. Also: Duran-Cuevas, Hagler-Sibson.

Aug. 1983: Michael Spinks: King Of The Light Heavyweights ... But The Glory Can't Erase The Sadness. Color Pinup: Johnny Bumphus. Interview: Jones & Rappaport. Also: Jones-McCrory, Pryor-Arguello II preview, world's best fighter poll, Jeff Chandler, Mark Breland, Leon Spinks.

Oct. 1983: Is Larry Holmes Finished? Color Pinup: Greg Page. Interview: Marvis Frazier. Also: Marvin Hagler, Bobby Chacon, Jack Dempsey.

Aug. 1984: WBC Heavyweight Champion Terrible Tim Witherspoon: A Superstar Of Tomorrow? Color Pinup: Rocky Lockridge. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: Marvin Hagler, Gomez-LaPorte.

Oct. 1984: Golden Boy Mark Breland: Can He Be The Next Sugar Ray? Color Pinup: Jaime Garza. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Bramble-Mancini, Sugar Ray Leonard.

Nov. 1984: Thomas Hearns: "Hagler Is Shakin' Like A Leaf On A Tree!" Color Pinup: Tim Witherspoon. Interview: Livingstone Bramble. Also: Rosario-Davis, Marlon Starling.

Jan. 1985: The Wide-Open Heavyweight Division: Who Will Take Control? Color Pinup: Bill Costello. Interview: Tyrone Crawley. Also: Harry Arroyo, Curry-Pryor, Barry McGuigan.

Feb. 1985: Gerry Cooney: How Far Can He Go This Time? Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Interview: Ray Mancini. Also: Dream fights, Hector Camacho.

March 1985: Next For Marvelous Marvin Hagler: The Only Fight That Really Matters. Color pinup: Mike McCallum. Interview: Thomas Hearns. Also: Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza, Holmes-Bonecrusher.

May 1985: Thomas Hearns: KO Fighter Of The Year. Color Pinup: Gerry Cooney. Also: Camacho-Ramirez, Truth Williams, Year In Review.

July 1985: Aaron Pryor: Has Hawk Time Run Out? Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Greg Page. Also: Ray Mancini, James Shuler, Costello-Hatcher.

Aug. 1985: King Cobra: "Hagler-Hearns Is Done And I'm Better Than Both Of Them!" Color Pinup: John Mugabi. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Larry Holmes, Roberto Duran, DeWitt-Lee.

Dec. 1985: Pinklon Thomas: "Larry Holmes Betrayed Boxing." Color Pinup: Hagler-Mugabi. Also: Mike McCallum, Tyrell Biggs, Camacho-Ramirez.

Jan. 1986: Macho Mania! Hector Camacho Takes Aim At 10 Tough Targets. Color Pinup: Jimmy Paul. Interview: Alexis Arguello. Also: Truth Williams, Curry-McCrory.

July 1986: Tyson, McGuigan, Hagler: The Stars Catch Fire And Boxing Is Hot Again! Color Pinup: Azumah Nelson. Also: Camacho-Chavez.

Dec. 1986: Larry Holmes' Message To Mike Tyson: "Show Me You Can Kick My Butt!" Color pinup: Mark Breland. Interview: Holmes. Plus: Witherspoon-Bruno, Evander Holyfield, Cruz-McGuigan, Danny Lopez.

Feb. 1987: Upset Of The Decade: Has Honeyghan Cut Short The Curry Era? Color Pinup: Marvin Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Edwin Rosario, Hector Camacho.

May 1987: Hagler vs. Leonard: Who Will Win And Why. Color Pinup: Edwin Rosario. Also: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Leonard-Hagler, Bobby Czyz, Greg Haugen.

Sept. 1987: Bobby Czyz: Finally, His Accomplishments Match His Appeal. Color Pinup: Sugar Ray. Interview: Lloyd Honeyghan. Also: Mark Breland, Hector Camacho, Weekend Warriors.

Oct. 1987: Greatness Beckons: When Will Mike Tyson Answer The Call? Color Pinup: Michael Olajide. Interview: Tyrell Biggs. Also: Paz-Haugen, Marvin Hagler.

Nov. 1987: Michael Spinks: The War With Tyson Is Okay With Him. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Frankie Duarte. Also: Matthew Hilton, Hagler-Czyz.

Dec. 1987: Mike Tyson: Undisputed Heavyweight King-But Is He Losing His Loyal Subjects? Color Pinup: Matthew Hilton. Interview: Barry McGuigan. Also: Aaron Pryor, Mike McCallum.

Jan. 1988: The Collapse Of A Hero: Why Breland Never Hit The Mark Of Greatness. Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Michael Nunn, Alexis Arguello, lightweights.

Feb. 1988: Pazienza & Haugen Go For Each Other's Throats. Color Pinup: Marlon Starling. Interview: Bob Arum. Also: Tate-Olajide, ESPN Boxing.

May 1988: KO Exclusive-Mike Tyson, As Only Mike Tyson Knows Him. Color Pinup: Mike McCallum. Interview: Thomas Hearns. Also: Tyson-Spinks Poll, Michael Dokes, Virgil Hill.

July 1988: Superfight History Dictates: Don't Expect The Expected From Tyson-Spinks. Color Pinup: Roger Mayweather. Interview: Dr. Ferdie Pacheco. Also: Roberto Duran, Azumah Nelson, Barkley-Olajide.

Aug. 1988: Tyson-Spinks: KO's Fearless Forecast Of Superfight '88. Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Matthew Hilton. Also: Lockridge-Knight, Evander Holyfield, Lloyd Honeyghan.

Sept. 1988: Tyson-Spinks, The Aftermath—What If Tyson Wins; What If Spinks Wins? Color Pinup: Frank Tate. Interview: Marlon Starling. Also: Barry McGuigan, Simon Brown, risk-taking.

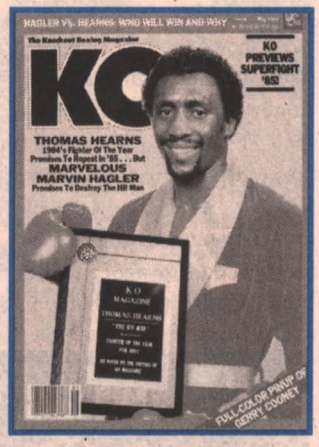
Oct. 1988: Middleweight Terrorism: Iran Bombs The Hit Man. Color Pinup: Don Lalonde. Interview: Frank Bruno. Also: Roger Mayweather, Marvin Hagler.

Jan. 1989: The Troubled Times Of Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Lloyd Honeyghan. Interview: Gil Clancy. Also: Meldrick Taylor, Jeff Fenech, Boxing's Champs.

Feb. 1989: George Foreman Is Born Again. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Bill Cayton. Also: The Olympics, Davey Hilton, John Mugabi, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1989: "I Beat Up Tyson Before, I'll Do It Again," by Carl Williams. Color Pinup: Michael Nunn. Also: Chavez-Mayweather, Brian Mitchell, Marv Albert.

Nov. 1989: The Real Duran; The Stories Behind The Legend. Color Pinup: Orlando Canizales. Interview: Mike Trainer. Also: Edwin Rosario, Rosi-Van Horn.



Feb. 1990: George Foreman Risks A Multimillion-Dollar Shot At Tyson. Color Pinup: Brian Mitchell. Interview: Riddick Bowe. Also: Simon Brown, Molina-Lopez, East vs. West.

May 1990: Chavez vs. Taylor: The Best Matchup In The Last Five Years. Color Pinup: Daniel Zaragoza. Interview: Pernell Whitaker. Also: Leonard-Hearns, Glenn McCrory, Prince Charles Williams.

June 1990: A Sugar-Free Future? Thomas Hearns Is Looking Up. Color Pinup: Glenn McCrory. Interview: Michael Moorer. Also: Matthew Hilton, Molina-Suarez, Foreman-Cooney, Camacho-Paz.

July 1990: KO Interview-Sugar Ray Leonard. Color Pinup: Jorge Paez. Also: Michael Nunn, Buster Douglas, Jibaro Perez, the Olympians.

Sept. 1990: KO Interview-Buster Douglas. Color Pinup: Macho Camacho. Also: Thomas Hearns, Nigel Benn, Greg Haugen, Boxing Hall of Fame.

Oct. 1990: Send In The Clown: Is Jorge Paez A Phenom Or A Fraud? Color Pinup: Paul Banke. Interview: Tony Lopez. Also: Chavez-Taylor II, Jesse Benavides.

Nov. 1990: The Comeback Of Mike Tyson: A Crooked Course Straight To The Top. Color Pinup: Tony Lopez. Interview: Don Dunphy. Also: Davis-Breland, Riddick Bowe, federal commission.

Dec. 1990: The Heart Of The Matter: Who Will Survive The Holyfield-Douglas War? Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Virgil Hill. Also: Michael Carbajal, Ruelas Brothers, Best Fighter Poll.

Jan. 1991: Macho Ado About Nothing? Why Hector Camacho Wants To Be Believed. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Irving Rudd. Also: Sugar Ray Leonard, Orlando Canizales, Vinny Pazienza.

Feb. 1991: 10 Fighters To Fear: Boxing's Most Destructive Hitters. Color Pinup: Razor Ruddock. Interview: Ray Mercer. Also: Roberto Duran, Saoul Mamby, Mills Lane, Sugar Ray Robinson.

April 1991: The Ali Chronicles: The Greatest Show On Earth. Color Pinup: George Foreman. Interview: Tommy Morrison. Also: Tyson-Stewart, Ruddock, best-kept secrets.

May 1991: Ruddock Eyes The Big Upset Of Tyson. Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Jeff Fenech. Also: Virgil Hill, Pernell Whitaker, Alex Ramos, Simon Brown, Buddy McGirt.

June 1991: Exclusive KO Interview: Evander Holyfield. Color Pinup: Raul Perez. Also: Norris-Leonard, Charles Williams, champs of 1971 vs. 1991, Chavez.

July 1991: Riddick Bowe: Is He Destined To Be Heavyweight Champ? Color Pinup: Michael Carbajal. Interview: Buddy McGirt. Also: Bobby Czyz, Buster Douglas, Mark Breland.

Aug. 1991: Desert Storm II: Will The Tyson-Ruddock Rematch Be Different? Color Pinup: Loreto Garza. Interview: Michael Carbajal. Also: Brown-Blocker, Fenech-Nelson preview, Harold Brazier, Yuh-Carbajal.

Sept. 1991: Remember Me? I Won The Fight! What "The Real Deal" Still Has To Deal With. Color Pinup: Ray Mercer. Interview: Eddie Futch. Also: Larry Holmes, southpaw heavyweights, Toney-Nunn, Brown-Taylor.

Oct. 1991: Thomas Hearns Works Another Miracle! Now There Are More Hills Left To Climb. Color Pinup: Humberto Gonzalez. Interview: Mike McCallum. Also: Norris-Curry, Richard Steele, Troy Dorsey.

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson-The Only Heavyweight That Matters. Color Pinup: Thomas Hearns. Interview: Troy Dorsey. Also: Fenech-Nelson, James Toney, lost art of bodypunching.

Dec. 1991: Tyson vs. Holyfield-The Experts Analyze The Elements That Will Decide The Fight. Color Pinup: Joey Gamache. Also: Michael Moorer, Pernell Whitaker, Greg Richardson, Robert Quiroga.

Jan. 1992: The Tyson-Holyfield Showdown: An Exclusive Forecast By George Foreman. Color Pinup: Myung Woo Yuh. Also: Fenech-Nelson, TV announcers, boxing's toughest men, Toney-McCallum.

March 1992: KO Interview Mike Tyson: An In-Depth, Toe-To-Toe Talk With Boxing's Biggest Star. Color Pinup: Michael Moorer. Also: Thomas Hearns, Tracy Patterson, Larry Holmes, best fighter poll.

May 1992: Division-By-Division Face-offs: The Best Of '92 vs. The Best Of '67. Color Pinup: James Warring. Interview: Hector Camacho. Also: Tommy Morrison, Bert Cooper, Gianfranco Rosi.

June 1992: If Not Tyson Or Holyfield, Then Who? Bowe? Moorer? Ruddock? Lewis? Mercer? Color Pinup: James Toney. Interview: Shelly Finkel. Also: Scotty Olson, overrated and underrated fighters, Orlin Norris, Whitaker-Pineda.

July 1992: The Title Reign of Evander Holyfield: A Reason To Hide ... Or A Reason For Pride? Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Julian Jackson. Also: Kelley-Dorsey, Nelson-Fenech, Kennedy McKinney.

Aug. 1992: Bowe Knows The Big Fight: The Top Contender Analyzes Holmes-Holyfield. Color Pinup: Julian Jackson. Interview: Michael Spinks. Also: Thomas Hearns, Blue Horizon, fighting fear, Toney-Barkley, Greg Haugen.

Sept. 1992: Can Tommy Morrison Punch Out The Theory ... White Men Can't Fight. Color Pinup: Welcome Ncita. Interview: Ken Norton. Also: Reggie Johnson, Jimmy Paul, McGirt-Blocker, Ali-Shavers.

Oct. 1992: The Olympics: Golden Memories ... And Golden Futures? Color Pinup: Reggie Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Genaro Hernandez, Terry Norris.

Nov. 1992: Foreman vs. Holmes: The Fight Evander Holyfield Should Have Prevented. Color Pinup: Iran Barkley. Interview: Joey Gamache. Also: Hector Camacho, Tracy Patterson, Rudy Zavala.

Dec. 1992: The Final Four: Ruddock vs. Lewis, Holyfield vs. Bowe. Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Also: Whitaker-Pineda, Bowe-Coetzer, Alex Stewart, Gamache-Lopez.

Jan. 1993: Holyfield vs. Bowe: Who Will Win and Why. Color Pinup: Al Cole. Interview: Vinny Pazienza. Also: James Toney, Terrence Alli, Maurice Blocker.

March 1993: Not Just Another English Muffin: Lennox Lewis Powers His Way Toward The Title. Color Pinup: Leeonzer Barber. Interview: Emanuel Steward. Also: Reggie Johnson, Lopez-Gamache, USA Network.

May 1993: Recapping The Future: Julio Cesar Chavez' Road To 100-0. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Junior Jones. Also: Buddy McGirt, Riddick Bowe, Raul Marquez.

Dec. 1993: The KO Feud Rages On: "I Will Torture You!" Says Riddick Bowe To Lennox Lewis. Color Pinup: Kennedy McKinney. Also: Mississippi boxing, George Foreman, Yori Boy Campas , Carbajal-Kim, Morrison-Moorer.

Jan. 1994: Outrage At The Alamodome: "Sweet Pea" Shafted! Color Pinup: Orlando Canizales. Interview: Kennedy McKinney. Also: James Toney, book of lists, M.A. Barrera.

March 1994: Holyfield-Bowe II: Why It Was Different This Time. Color Pinup: Felix Trinidad. Also: Morrison-Bentt, Thomas Hearns, Don King, Michael Carbajal, Oscar De La Hoya.

May 1994: Oscar De La Hoya—He Wants It All And He Wants It Now. Color Pinup: Anaclet Wamba. Interview: Simon Brown. Also: Tom Johnson, J.C. Chavez, Julio Borboa.

June 1994: Frankie Randall Makes It Official! J.C. Chavez Is A Beaten Man. Color Pinup: Jose Luis Bueno. Also: Norris brothers, Felix Trinidad, Holyfield-Moorer preview, heroes to the stars.

July 1994: The Upset Epidemic! Carbajal's Conqueror: Chiquita Gonzalez. Color Pinup: Junior Jones. Interview: Rafael Ruelas. Also: Jake Rodriguez, Czyz-Hearns preview, Randall-Chavez II preview.

Dec. 1994: Boxing Comes Off The Floor ... And Looks Toward A Knockout Future. Color Pinup: Julio Borboa. Interview: Michael Carbajal. Also: Arturo Gatti, Oliver McCall, MGM Grand.

June 1995: The Tug-Of-War Over Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Wilfredo Vasquez. Interview: Oliver McCall. Plus: Alejandro Gonzalez, Alexis Arguello, Kostya Tszyu.

Feb. 1996: The Time Is Right! Bring It On, Tyson! Color Pinup: Bruce Seldon. Interview: James Toney. Plus: Bowe-Holyfield III, Lennox Lewis, Thomas Hearns, Quarry family.

March 1996: Whether He Fights Or Not ... Tyson Is Hot! Hot!! Hot!!! Color Pinup: Marco Antonio Barrera. Interview: Jose Sulaiman. Plus: Reggie Tuur, heavyweight prospects, champion's edge.

June 1996: Destined For The Hall Of Fame: Who's In, Who's Out. Color Pinup: Wayne McCullough. Interview: Cedric Kushner. Plus: Danny Romero, Mark Breland, Dynamite Dozen—the next 12.

July 1996: Awesome Again! Tyson Destroys Bruno. Color Pinup: Tyson-Bruno. Interview: Christy Martin. Plus: Chavez-De La Hoya preview, Derrick Gainer, '96 Hall of Fame inductees.

Aug. 1996 (Special 88-Page Edition): An Inside Look At Team Tyson—*KO* Talks With Trainer Jay Bright. Color Pinup: Naseem Hamed. Interview: Jay Bright. Plus: 1946 vs. 1996, William Guthrie, middleweights, young heavyweights.

Sept. 1996: Tyson vs. Seldon. Don't Bet On This Fight Until You've Read This Story! Color Pinup: Arturo Gatti. Interview: Butterbean. Plus: Dana Rosenblatt, '92 Olympians, McGuigan-Pedroza.

Nov. 1996 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Bob Arum. Plus: Roy Jones, Roberto Duran, Joe Cortez.

Dec. 1996: Andrew Golota—Taking The Low Road to Stardom. Color Pinup: Mark Johnson. Interview: Rock Newman. Plus: De La Hoya-Gonzalez, Chuck Bodak, bizarre endings, Chavez-Rosario.

Winter 1996: This Is War! Holyfield-Tyson Will Be Explosive ... And Short. Color Pinup: Roy Jones. Interview: Bernard Hopkins. Plus: Riddick Bowe, David Reid, Holyfield-Qawi.

Jan. 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Bowe-Golota II: Hatred And Vengeance ... It's A Beautiful Thing! Color Pinup: Johnny Tapia. Interview: Lou Duva. Plus: Mouse Strauss, heavyweight rematches, Azumah Nelson.

Feb. 1997: KO's 1997 Wish List. Color Pinup: Ike Quartey. Interview: Naseem Hamed. Plus: David Tua, Felix Trinidad, Adolpho Washington, Bobby Czyz.

March 1997: Holyfield's Trainer Tells All! An Inside Look At The Upset Of The Year. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Plus: George Foreman, Lupe Pintor, boxing bill, Floyd Mayweather Jr.

July 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Yesterday, Today, And Tomorrow: Who's Best? Color Pinup: Kostya Tszyu. Interview: Buster Douglas. Plus: Arturo Gatti, Sugar Ray Leonard, Naseem Hamed, Olympians.

Aug. 1997: Oscar Reaches ... But Can't Grasp The Stars. Color Pinup: Nate Miller. Interview: Hector Camacho. Plus: Norris-Trinidad preview, Hall of Fame, Angel Manfredy.

Sept. 1997: A Legitimate Grudge Match: Why Romero-Tapia Could Be The Fight Of The Year. Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: David Tua. Plus: George Foreman, Ike Quartey, promoters.

Oct. 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Junior Jones. Interview: Montell Griffin. Plus: Robin Reid, Butterbean, Shannon Briggs.

Nov. 1997: Filling In The Missing Pieces: What "The Bite" Means To Boxing. Color Pinup: Christy Martin. Interview: Jim Lampley. Plus: Vince Phillips, British prospects, Iran Barkley.

Dec. 1997: Johnny Tapia Outshines Danny Romero: The Defining Moment In A "Crazy Life." Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Frans Botha. Plus: Lewis-Akiwande, Don King, Charles Brewer.

Holiday 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Holyfield-Moorer II: Can Evander Avenge His Ugliest Defeat? Color Pinup: Vince Phillips. Interview: Mills Lane. Plus: Roy Jones, Baby Jake Matlala, Boxing 2000.

Jan. 1998: De La Hoya Humbles The Macho Man: "Oscar's The Best I've Ever Fought." Color Pinup: William Guthrie. Interview: Mark Johnson. Plus: Johnny Tapia, Pinklon Thomas, defense.

Feb. 1998: Is Lennox Lewis The World's Best Heavyweight? Color Pinup: Charles Brewer. Interview: Marc Ratner. Plus: Otis Grant, Arturo Gatti.

March 1998: Evander Holyfield: For The Real Deal, Lewis Is No Big Deal. Color Pinup: Lou Del Valle. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Plus: David Izon, Meldrick Taylor, rapid weight loss.

May 1998: Living Up To The Hype: Sometimes They Do ... Sometimes They Don't. Color Pinup: David Reid. Interview: Best Of ... (Part III). Plus: Naseem Hamed, Marty Denkin, women's boxing.

June 1998: Lewis vs. Holyfield: Why The Fight Of The Year Isn't Going To Happen. Color Pinup: Evander Holyfield. Interview: Eddie Futch. Plus: Hector Lizarraga, pain, Head-To-Head review.

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☐ JUN/82	☐ NOV/87	☐ NOV/90	☐ OCT/92	☐ NOV/96
☐ MAR/83	☐ DEC/87	☐ DEC/90	☐ NOV/92	☐ DEC/96
☐ MAY/83	☐ JAN/88	☐ JAN/91	☐ DEC/92	☐ WIN/96
☐ JUN/83	☐ FEB/88	☐ FEB/91	☐ JAN/93	☐ JAN/97
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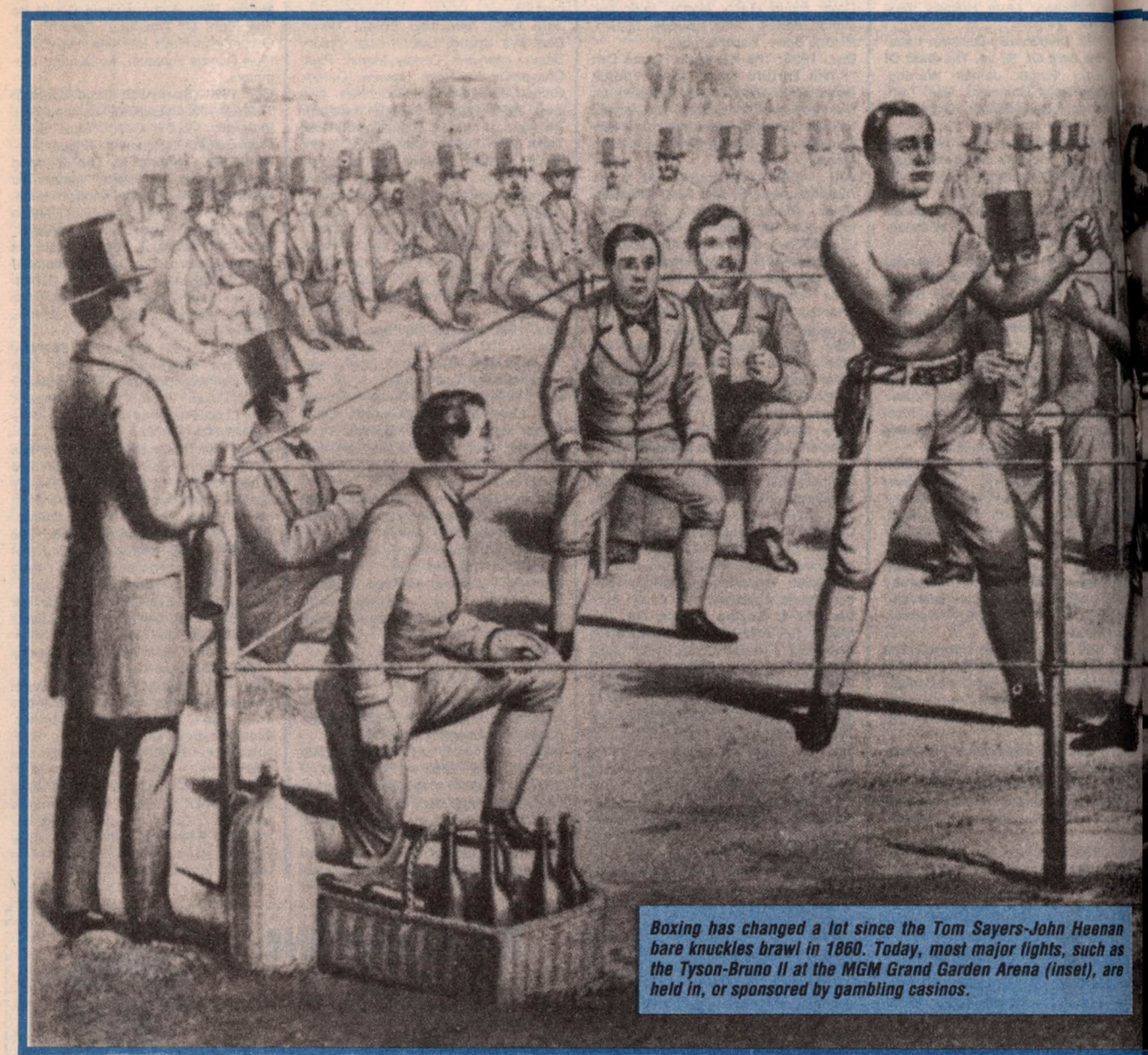
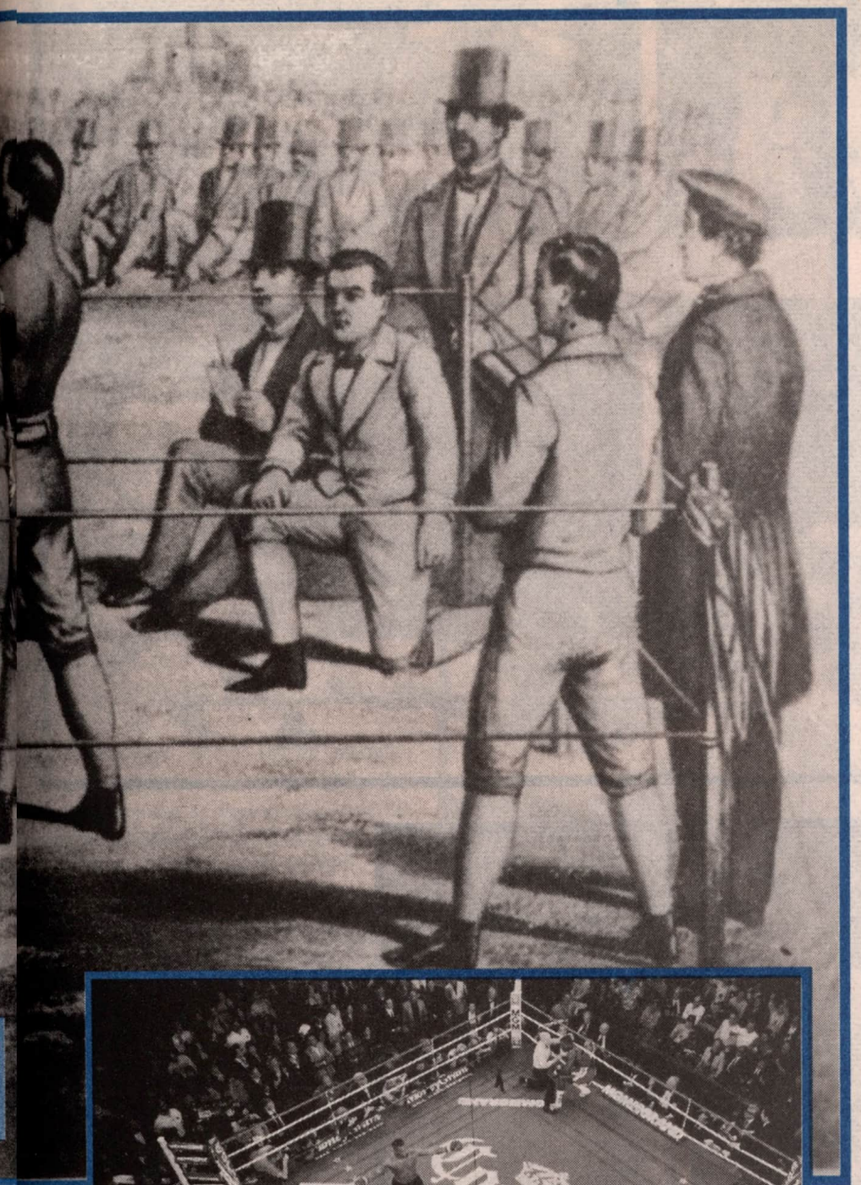
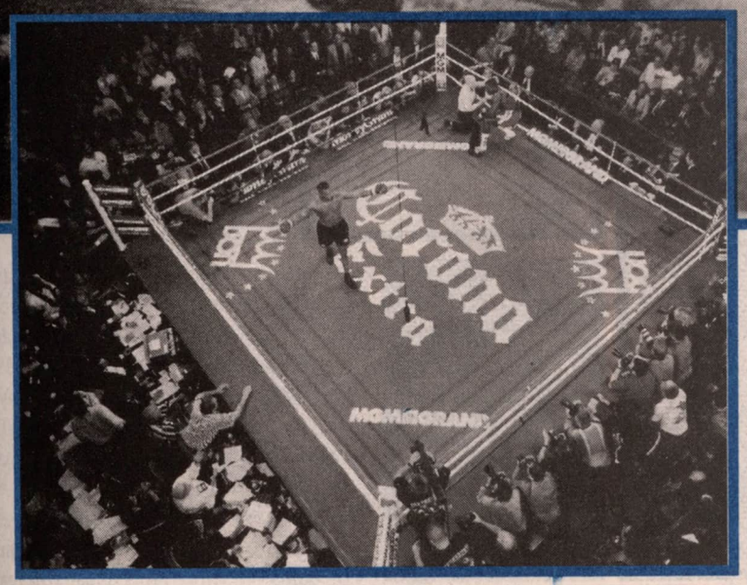
THE METAMORPHOSIS OF BOXING

The More Things Change ...







Boxing has changed a lot since the Tom Sayers-John Heenan bare knuckles brawl in 1860. Today, most major fights, such as the Tyson-Bruno II at the MGM Grand Garden Arena (inset), are held in, or sponsored by gambling casinos.

By D.E. Thomas

Once upon a time, boxing was a very different sport than as it exists today. Some of the changes occurred long ago, others more recently. Many were sudden, while others have come more gradually. The end result is that the Marquis de Queensbury probably wouldn't recognize pugilism if he were transported through time from when he sponsored boxing's first modern rules to glimpse at today's version of the game.

Back in boxing's dark ages, contestants fought bare-knuckled, smashing fist against face and bone against bone. That changed when John L. Sullivan heralded the beginning of the modern era by donning a pair of gloves. The game changed forever, irreversibly, with that move toward civility and decorum.

The Greeks, of course, practiced an even more pure form of the manly art of self-defense in the original Olympics. According to historians, they fought completely nude with their bodies greased down with slippery oils. Whether anyone ever threw a bolo punch or hooked off the jab, unfortunately, are mysteries lost over the course of time.

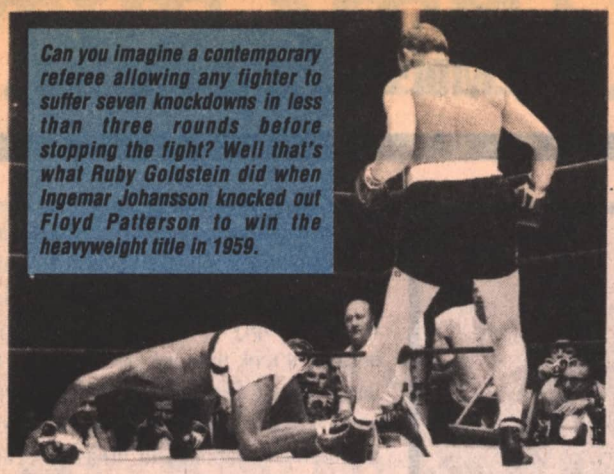
Among the results that can be traced to the move to gloved combat are career longevity, more frequent activity and, some say, a rise in brain injuries. Cuts and abrasions were more common in bare-knuckle fights, as were hand injuries. Boxers simply could not fight as often because it took time between bouts for the hands to heal. Once gloves and hand wraps were added, the fist became a more destructive weapon, and injuries became less superficial and more dangerous.

Gloves themselves have evolved over the decades. Today's gloves are engineered for power, hand protection, or both. Early models were much more like the leather gloves now worn for fashion or comfort. Horsehair was eventually added for stuffing. Modern gloves, in most cases, have substituted foam padding in the place of horsehair for a more even, tamper-proof distribution of the protective pad.

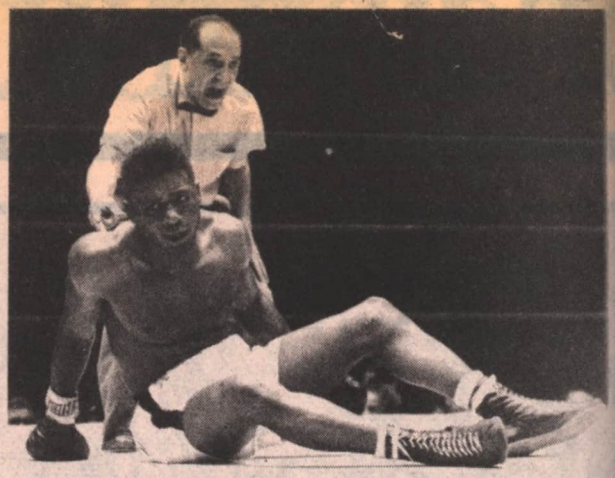
Not only the gloves have changed, the way they are worn is also different. In Sugar Ray Robinson's day, the laces that tighten the gloves were merely wrapped around the glove and tied, exposed. For the past decade or two, the laces have been wrapped with tape to keep them from inflicting eye injuries. Old-timers learned the art of using laces to mark an opponent's face. Boxers no longer have such a weapon at their disposal.

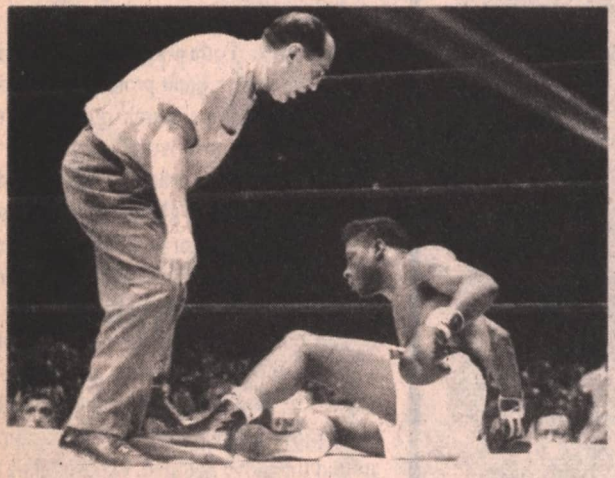
The mandatory eight-count and requirement that a fighter who scores a knockdown go directly to a neutral corner were later additions that have changed the face of the sport. Jack Dempsey lost the "long-count" fight against Gene Tunney in large part because it was the first time he was required to return to a neutral corner after he felled his foe. His delay gave Tunney precious seconds to recover. Previously, "The Manassa Mauler" followed the custom of his day and hovered over his prey, pouncing the second an opponent regained his feet.

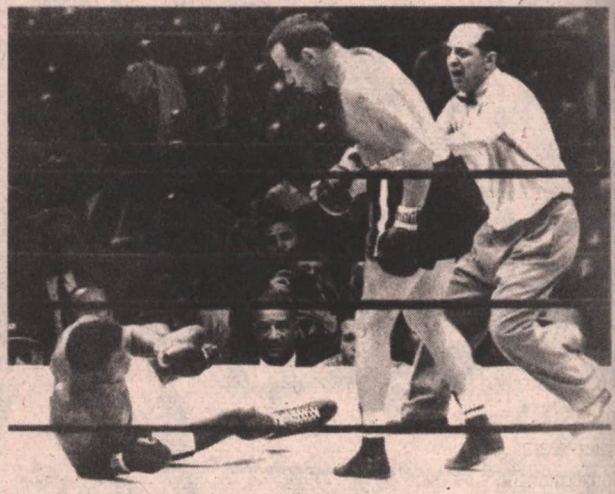
In a similar vein, the amount of punishment a fighter is allowed to take before a fight is stopped has decreased over the years. Witness a defenseless Floyd Patterson being bounced off the canvas again and again by Ingemar Johansson,

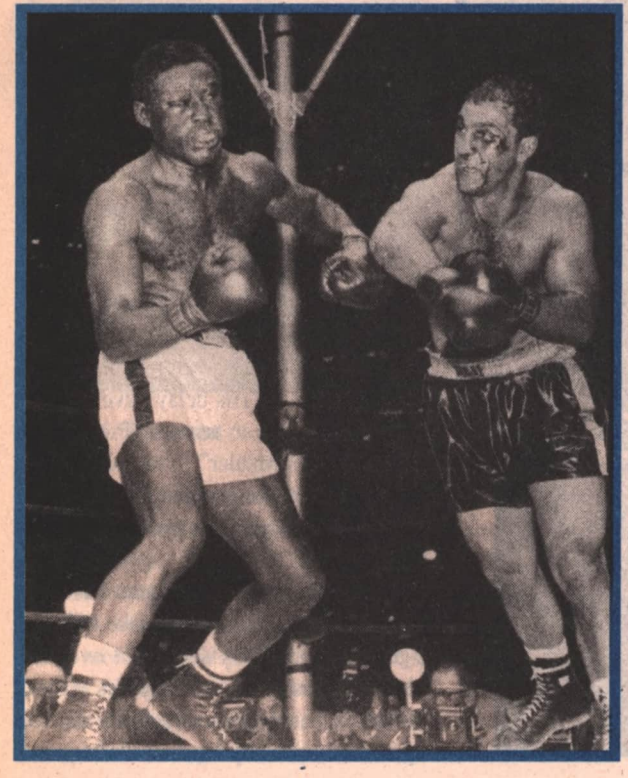


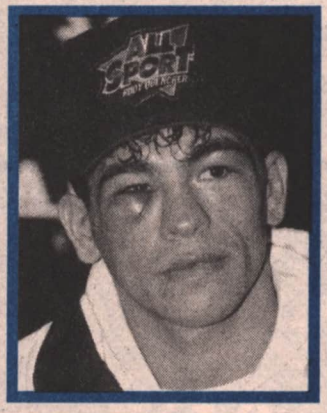
Can you imagine a contemporary referee allowing any fighter to suffer seven knockdowns in less than three rounds before stopping the fight? Well that's what Ruby Goldstein did when Ingemar Johansson knocked out Floyd Patterson to win the heavyweight title in 1959.











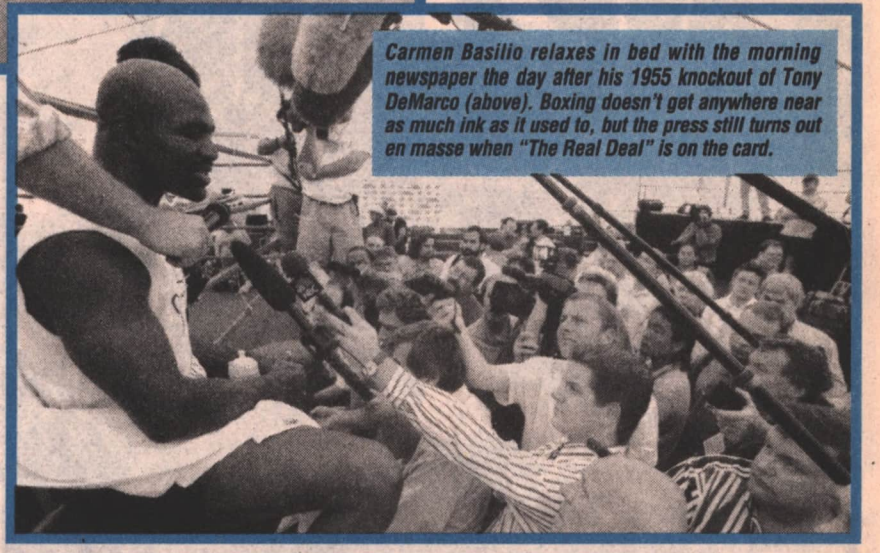
No matter how badly battered Rocky Marciano's face became, he always kept slugging away until he got his man. Today, Arturo Gatti (above) has frequently suffered serious facial damage, but hasn't been able to emulate "The Rock's" perfect come-from-behind record.

only to be further assaulted each time he arose. Imagine such a fight lasting even half as long today. Take a look at a picture of Rocky Marciano's face after one of his many taxing victories, and compare that to recent stoppages on cuts suffered by Arturo Gatti or Mickey Ward. Today's doctors seem much more likely to err on the side of caution.

Title fights have been shortened as well. The WBC was the first to move from 15-round championship contests to 12-rounders in the wake of Duk Koo Kim's fatal loss to Ray Mancini in the 14th round of their November 1982 fight. WBC head honcho Jose Sulaiman now wants to take things even further, reducing all non-title bouts to eight rounds or less.

Fighters have much shorter careers these days, at least in terms of the number of bouts. When a Julio Cesar Chavez or

Carmen Basilio relaxes in bed with the morning newspaper the day after his 1955 knockout of Tony DeMarco (above). Boxing doesn't get anywhere near as much ink as it used to, but the press still turns out en masse when "The Real Deal" is on the card.



Roberto Duran reaches the century mark, it is a newsworthy event. In the 1930s, '40s, or '50s, having 100 fights merely confirmed a boxer's status as a veteran. Does anyone truly expect Roy Jones or Oscar De La Hoya to log even 50 pro fights? Not even a super-active campaigner like Buck Smith or Harold Brazier is liable to approach 200 bouts, a mark not unheard of in earlier years.

Consequently, fighters rise up the rankings much faster than they did in the sport's golden era. It used to take 30 or 40 fights as an undercard attraction before a boxer moved up to main-event status. To reach the promised land of Madison Square Garden, many fighters had to wait until they were seasoned by 50 or more fights. Today, most fighters have long since retired before they reach that milestone.

Speaking of the Garden, it was once hailed as a pugilistic Mecca. Boxing has made something of a comeback in the Big Apple's big arena, but it is more widely known as the home of the NBA's Knicks. MSG has largely settled for Las Vegas leftovers, fights the casinos have passed on for various reasons. The days when a superfight like the first meeting between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier took place in New York City have long passed.

Isra Girgrah lands a left to Christy Martin's face. Although there have been female fighters since the gladiators days in ancient Rome, women's boxing has never been as popular as it is today.

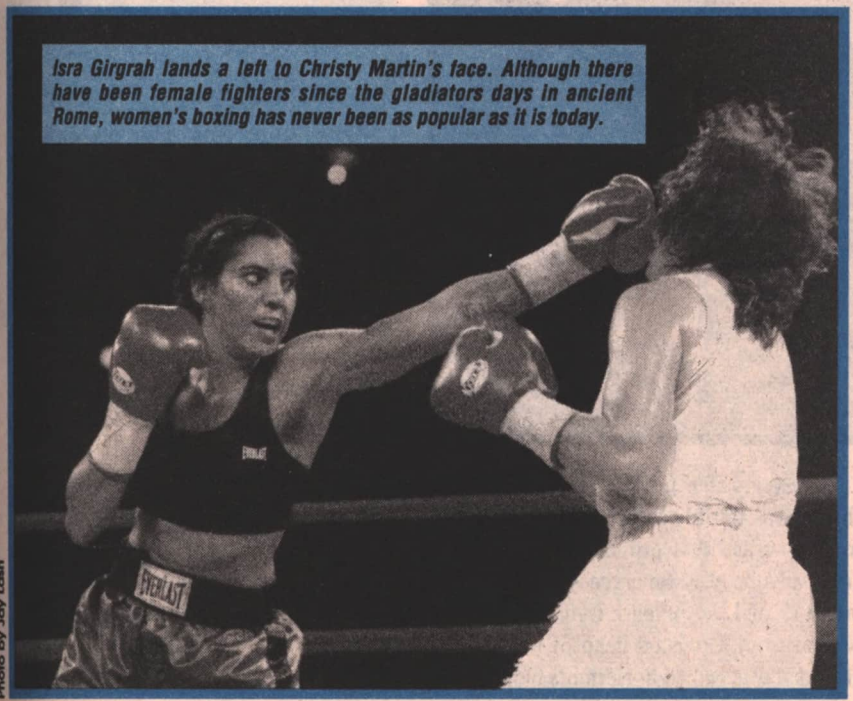


Photo by Joy Losh

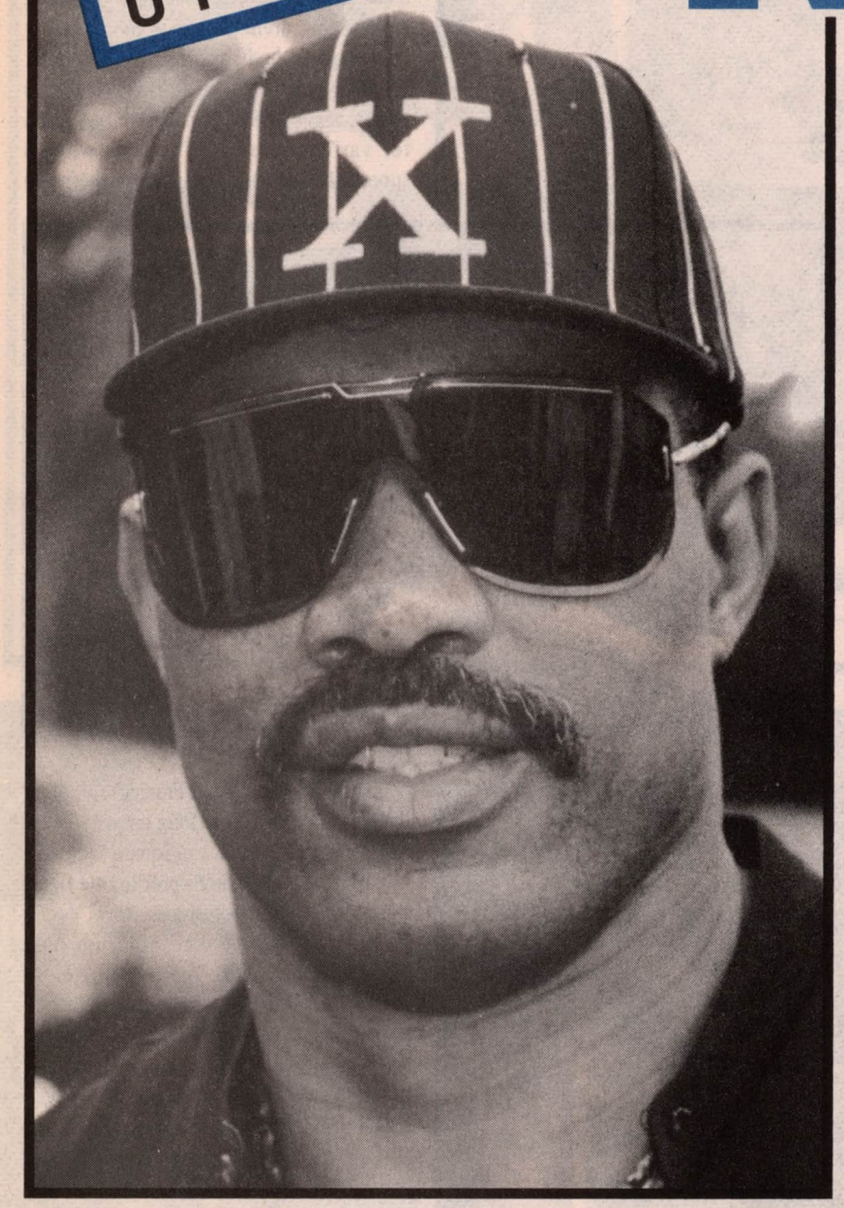
Even before Madison Square Garden's boxing prime, most high-profile title fights took place in outdoor arenas. New York's Polo Grounds, Yankee Stadium, and Ebbetts Field were once major fight venues. Las Vegas casinos have built outdoor arenas in their parking lots to host big fights, but even in Nevada the trend has changed. Now, the University of Nevada-Las Vegas' Thomas & Mack Center, an indoor basketball arena, is the site of choice for many top fistic events.

The rise of the casino industry as boxing's biggest benefactor is another sign of the times. Gambling interests underwrite major bouts because fight fans always show up at the tables and betting windows. A sporting event that can draw 10,000 or more bettors to a site is always of interest

(Continued on page 70)

The RING UPDATE

KEN NORTON



"I Wish I'd Taken My Career More Seriously"

By Ivan Goldman

Ken Norton, a fearless heavyweight who made his mark during the golden age of heavyweights, had to take his toughest shots after hanging up his gloves in 1981.

Five years after his last fight, the former champ was terribly hurt in a Los Angeles freeway crash that probably would have killed anyone else. Emergency crews using the Jaws of Life pulled a torn and broken Norton from a twisted heap of metal and glass that was bathed in Norton's blood.

"Brain was seeping out of my skull," he notes matter-of-factly. "The doctors said if I lived, I'd be a vegetable."

It's understandable why the attending physicians failed to predict Norton's gradual yet remarkable recovery, for it's most unlikely they had ever seen anyone quite like him.

During his explosive days in the ring, he was so physically awesome Norton could instill fear in opponents simply by removing his robe. At social gatherings, he sometimes ran into Arnold Schwarzenegger. People would stand next to the two of them and marvel at how much more physically imposing Norton was than the perennial Mr. Universe.

After his accident, the resolute Norton needed all that monumental power just to wiggle his fingers. Day after day, little by little, he taught himself again how to move his limbs, to walk, to speak, then to remember, because the crash robbed him of all memory.

Today, Norton is almost fully recovered from the auto accident that nearly took his life. He is a frequent guest at boxing functions, including The Ring's 75th Anniversary Awards banquet and the International Boxing Hall of Fame's "Induction Weekend," where he visited with fellow Hall of Famer Bob Foster.

"The way it was for a long time, I could talk to you for an hour, and then you could walk out the door and come right back, and I would not know you," he said. "But my memory is better now than it was before the accident. I work hard at remembering things. I learned to really work on it. I pick out something to remember a person or place by."

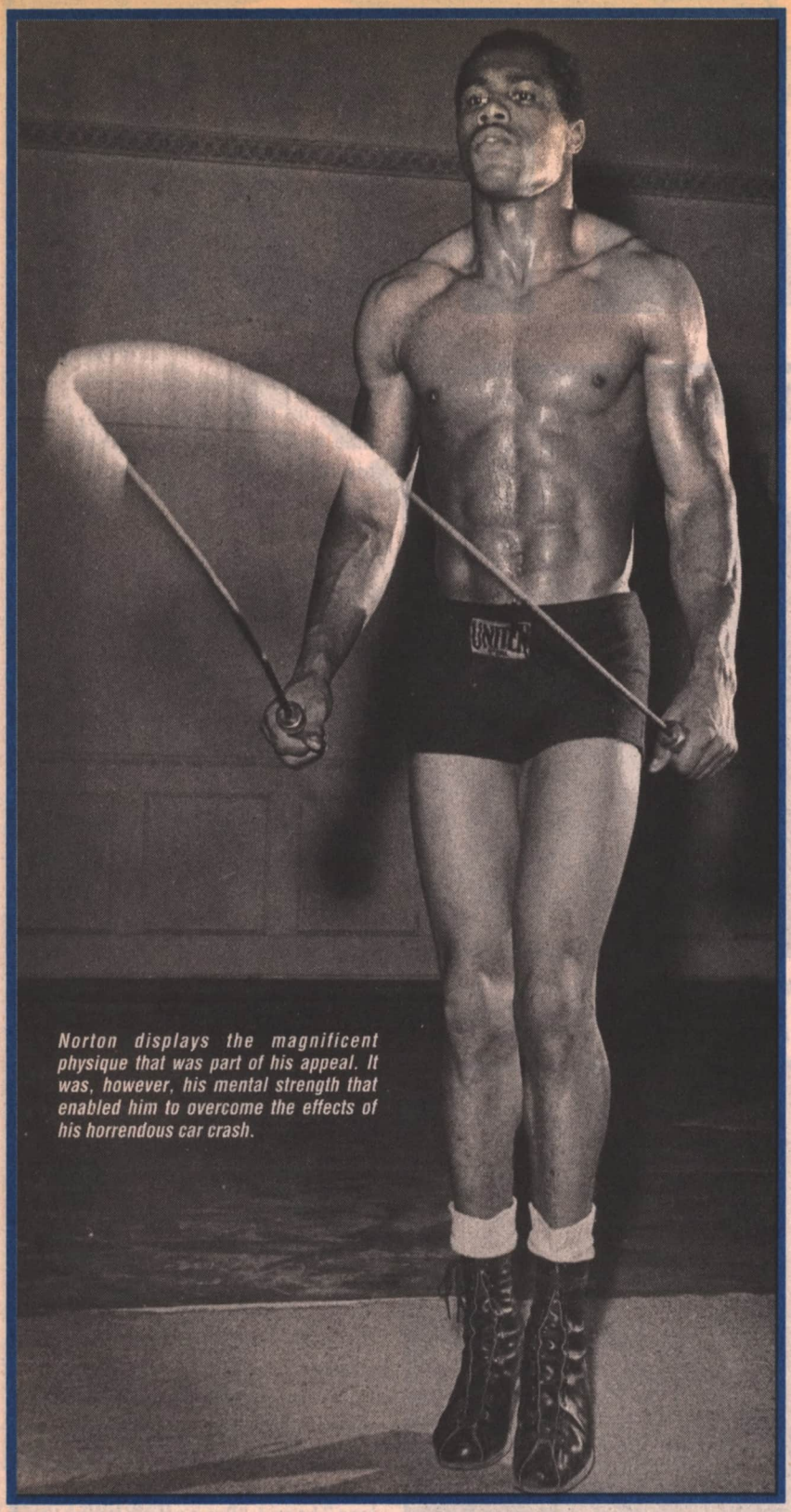
Norton, who will be 55 in August, still recalls nothing about the car crash. No witnesses were found, and as far as anyone knows, no other vehicles were involved. He prefers not to dwell on it.

"The good thing about it," he said, "is I don't have any memory of the pain I went through. I think that's God's way of protecting someone. God protects you in certain ways, and he also tests your belief. But I believe everything is for a reason. I don't know why I was hurt, but someday I will find out."

Self-conscious about the effects of his injuries, Norton needed time before he could be comfortable again in public. One of his injuries affected his speaking voice. Nowadays his voice remains gravelly, but quite serviceable.

"For a long time, when my speech was slurred and I walked kind of bad, everyone seemed to think that it was from boxing, that maybe I'd stayed in the game too long," he said. "But it wasn't boxing at all.

"I'm glad I boxed. I met a lot of good people in boxing, and I had a good career. I got in and out of the game without getting hurt. But I wish I'd taken my career more seriously than I did. I was very competitive, but I just wasn't serious enough.



Norton displays the magnificent physique that was part of his appeal. It was, however, his mental strength that enabled him to overcome the effects of his horrendous car crash.

When I had [fellow Hall of Famer] Eddie Futch in my corner, I think I was more serious. [Trainer] Bill Slayton was my friend. Eddie Futch was strictly business. I respect him for that. I liked him a lot."

Still living in Southern California, Norton, who left the ring with a record of 42-7-1 (33), has done publicity work for the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. He also makes appearances around the country at autograph shows.

For a while, he owned his own workout gym. "My wife, Jackie, helped me," he said, "but it was just too soon [after the accident] for me to handle anything like that."

In 1993, he sold the gym at a loss. Now he's looking for new opportunities. "I'm in the process of trying to start a restaurant near Irvine [California]. I may also go to Las Vegas and do one," he said.

Anyone who knows anything about Norton is familiar with the lore of his three historical matches with Muhammad Ali, the dominant heavyweight of his time and arguably the greatest heavyweight of all-time.

Norton, completely nonplused by his larger-than-life opponent, broke Ali's jaw during their first match in 1973, and showed workmanlike fortitude and skill in all three of their matches. After going 39 total rounds with the great Ali, Norton had secured his place in ring history. Although he scored only one decision victory against two decision losses, the two losses remain controversial to this day. The fact is, Ali just couldn't deal with him.

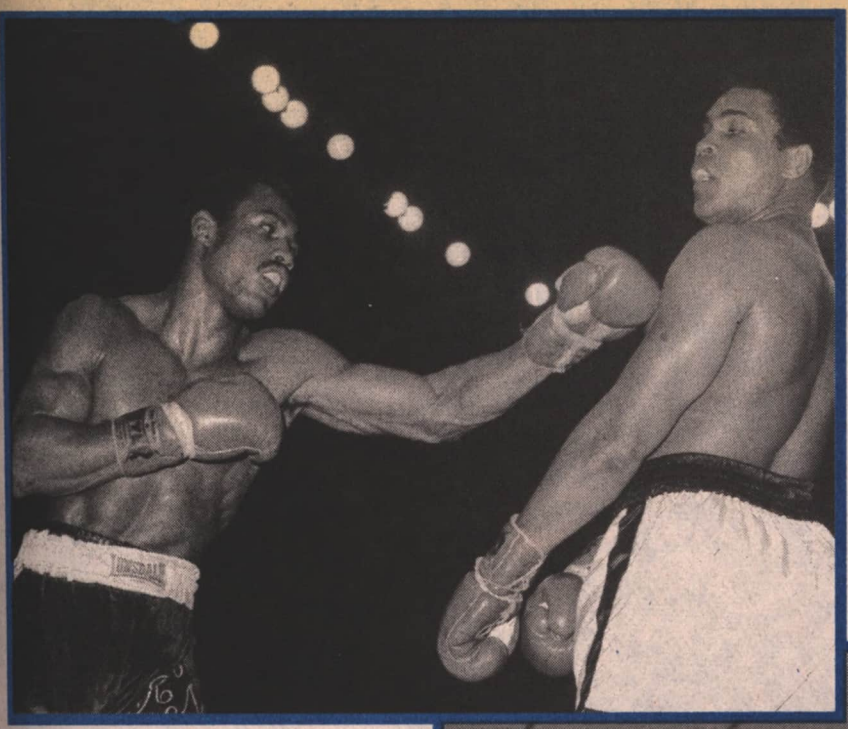
"I always liked Ali," Norton recalled. "In fact, after the first fight, when I beat him, I said I hope we still remain friends. The funny thing is, at the time I didn't know the man. But once you're in the ring with an individual, you feel, or at least I always felt, a certain feeling for that individual. Ali was a good person. He was then and is now.

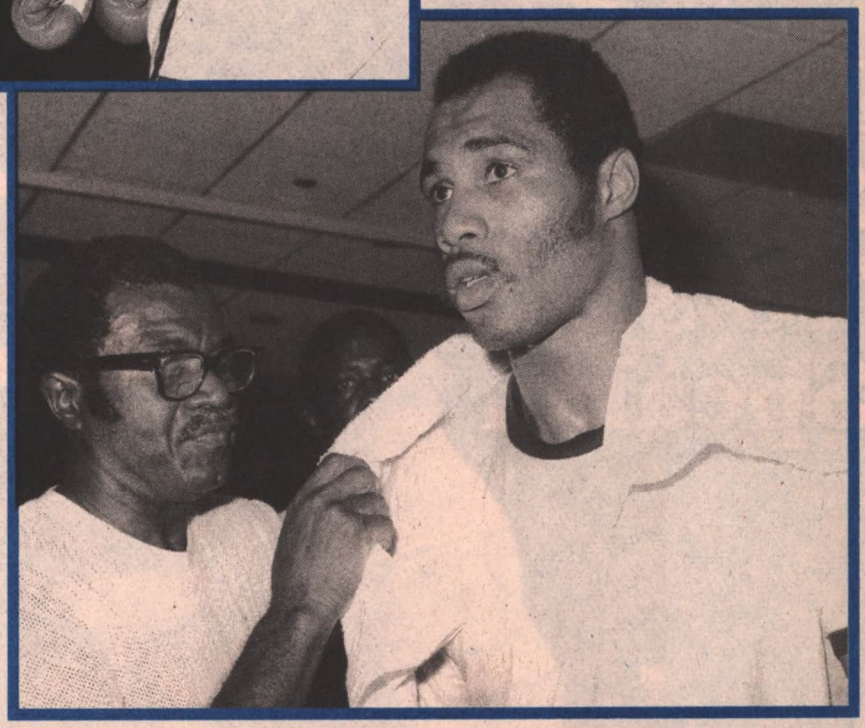
"But I just had no fear of the man. And I didn't fall for his tactics. He talked prior to a fight and then during the fight, trying to upset you, make you mad. And when you're mad you can't think correctly. Me, I'm very competitive. It was like playing a game of chess or checkers, and I was out to win. He just couldn't get under my skin like he did with [Joe] Frazier. He tried a couple things, but I just didn't bite. When he tried, I thought it was pretty juvenile."

But fighting well against an opponent like Ali required more than courage, more than just mental tricks. It also required strategy and the talent to execute.

"You couldn't get into a rhythm against Ali," Norton said. "You get a rhythm going, he would pick up on that rhythm and start hammering you. But even when you thought you had him figured out, you still got hit."

Although Norton never faced Frazier,





Norton is best remembered for his three-fight series with Ali, the first of which he won by 12-round decision after breaking Ali's jaw. Norton says that trainer Eddie Futch (right) was "strictly business." Both of them are now enshrined in the Hall of Fame.

Ali's other nemesis, in a real fight, Norton and Frazier sparred numerous rounds together. "I learned how to fight under Joe," he recalled. "When I got started, Eddie Futch also trained Frazier, and I was hired as a sparring partner. It was like an apprenticeship program. You didn't spar with him really. When the bell rang, you fought. One day Joe hit me and I got numb everywhere, even my toenails."

The famous left hook?

"You're right there," Norton replied. "So you had to learn. Learn or die. But Joe had a rhythm, too. You could time him pretty good. That's one thing Ali did well. He knew when things were coming. Joe made certain movements before a left hook, a right uppercut, anything. The thing about Joe is when he comes close, you can't lose your head. You learn to time him, learn what he's going to do before he does it."

Always a tremendous athlete, Norton, who grew up in Jacksonville, Illinois, earned a football scholarship to Northeast Missouri State. After two years of college ball, he entered the Marines, which is where he first started to box. Few men who start boxing that late in life ever reach the upper echelons of the sport, but Norton looked like he might be one of the exceptions.

"I got an offer from a group of businessmen in San Diego to turn pro, and it beat going back home to Jacksonville," he said, "so I jumped at it. I had a lot of good friends out there, black and white, but basically, the town was prejudiced. I could have gone back and finished college and maybe been a cop or whatever. But I figured this was an opportunity."

Several years ago, sports sections around the country began running stories about a rift between Norton and his son Ken Norton Jr., who'd been a football star at UCLA and later went on to be a top-of-the-line NFL linebacker, first at Dallas, and these days with San Francisco. Because both father and son were such big stars, it was a human interest story reporters couldn't resist.

Writers and broadcasters would call both Nortons and try to get them together. They would compose teary columns beseeching them to put aside their differences. None of it worked. Meanwhile, neither Norton would provide details of the feud's origin. They had too much dignity to open their wounds like a couple of Jerry Springer's geeks. But eventually, quietly, the wounds were healed.

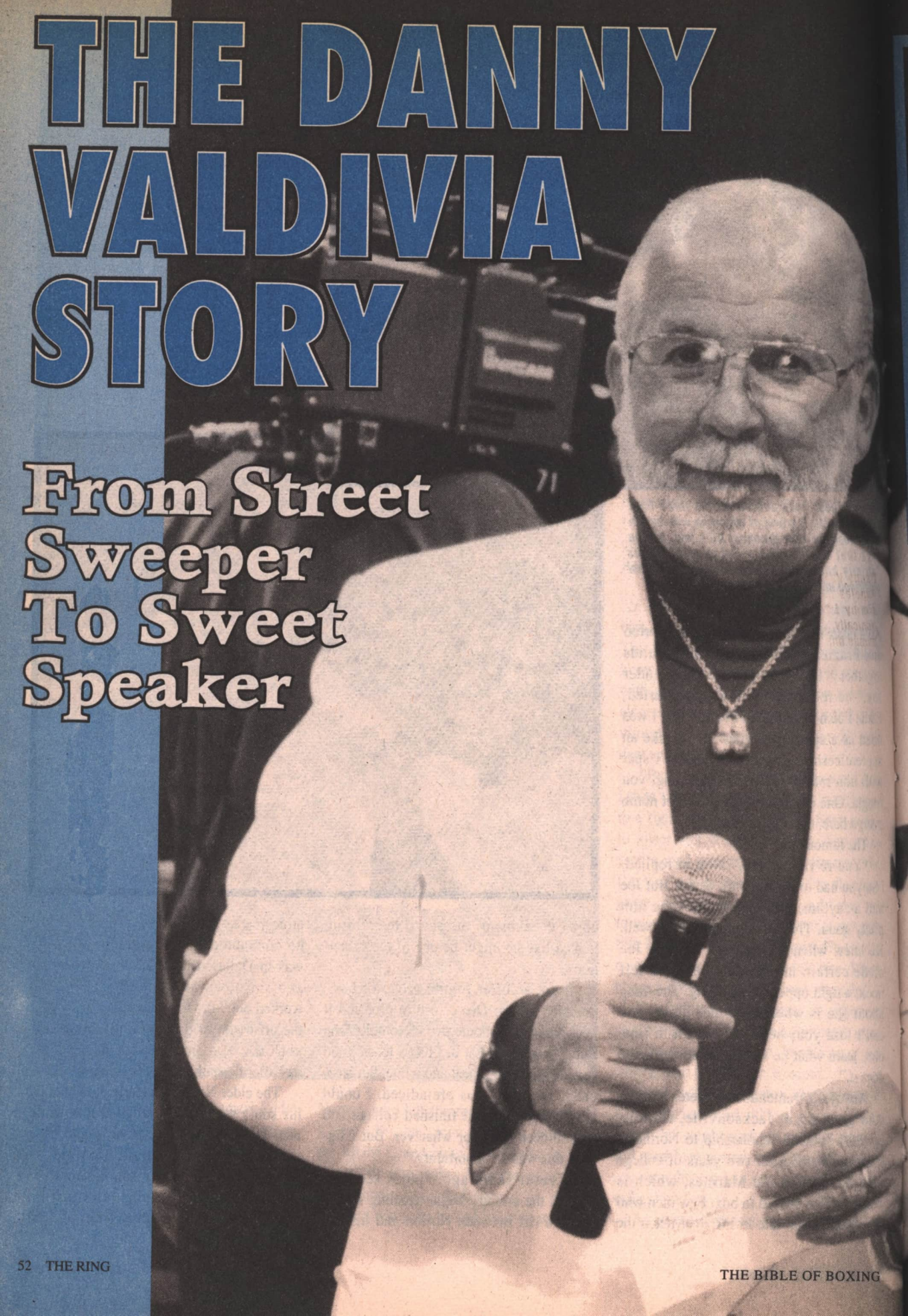
"We've been talking now for two or three years," said Norton. "There was just no communication between us when he was in Dallas. But once we got together and sat down and talked, everything worked out." In fact, Norton Jr., who spent the offseason working to finish his degree at UCLA, was coming to see his father the day after he spoke with THE RING.

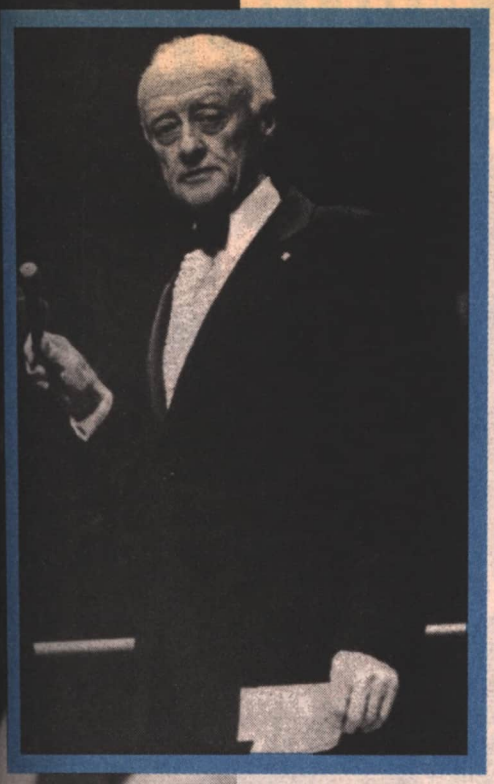
The elder Norton is clearly delighted by his son's success. He recalled that while recovering from the crash, he would have spells in which he would go blind. "I would go to one of my son's games, sit there five or 10 minutes, and just go

(Continued on page 73)

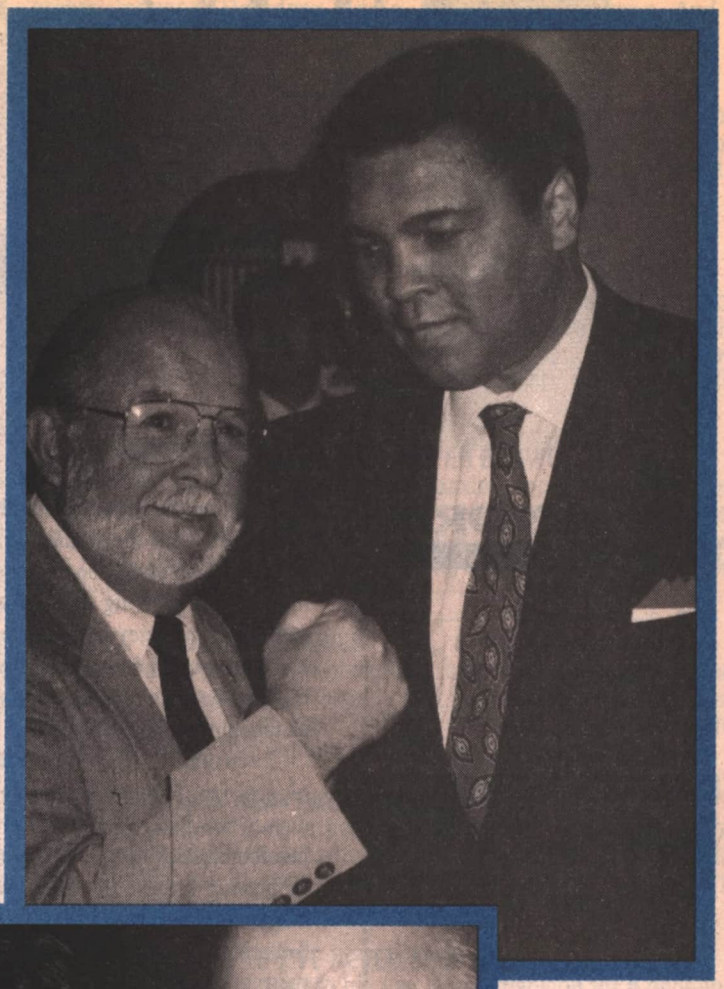
THE DANNY VALDIVIA STORY

From Street Sweeper To Sweet Speaker

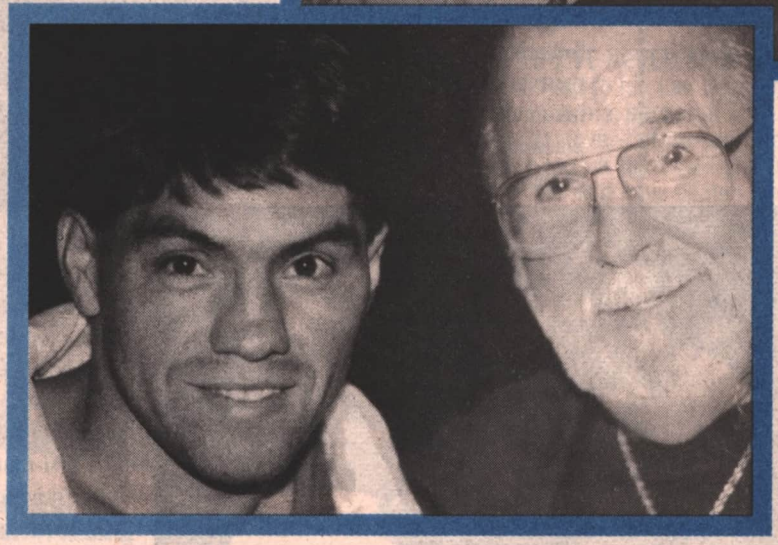




Danny Valdivia broke into ring announcing in Los Angeles in the 1980s despite the virtual monopoly Jimmy Lennon Sr. (above) had over area jobs. Ironically, Lennon was Valdivia's idol, inspiring him to pursue this new career in his late-40s.



Valdivia, seen here with Muhammad Ali, doesn't claim to be "The Greatest" ring announcer out there. Valdivia, who said he's "never tried to be flamboyant or real flashy," believes the distinction of best announcer belongs to Michael Buffer.



Humberto "Chiquita" Gonzalez, a dominant junior flyweight champion throughout the first half of the '90s, fought often in Los Angeles on cards Valdivia announced.

By Pete Ehrmann

He was his idol, but after a while Danny Valdivia got a little tired of hearing the name Jimmy Lennon Sr.

Lennon was the tuxedoed voice of West Coast boxing for more than 40 years. His exquisitely modulated, golden-toned introductions of boxers in the biggest fights at the Hollywood Legion Stadium, Olympic Auditorium, Los Angeles Sports Arena, and other venues made him as recognizable a figure in California rings as the fighters themselves.

Valdivia was 5'6" tall, balding, and 45 years old when he decided that he, too, wanted to be a boxing announcer.

(Continued on page 75)

NEW FACES

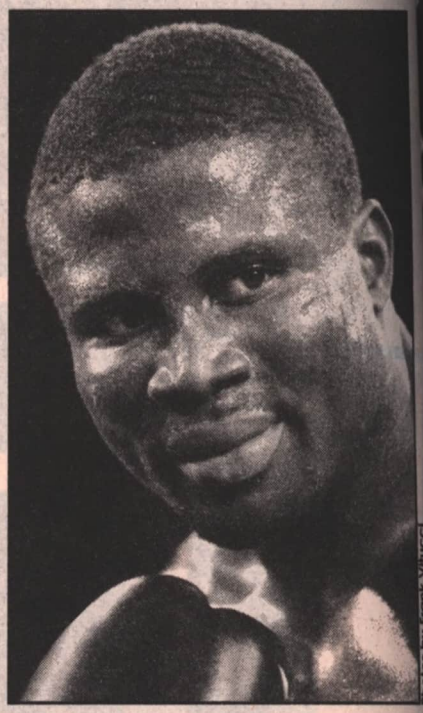
DUNCAN DOKIWARI

Heavyweight

By Joe Santoliquito

Duncan Dokiwari's boxing workouts would always begin with a mad dash through the house, scrambling in search of his missing boxing equipment. His mother was growing tired of watching her son come home every night with swollen lips and assorted cuts and bruises, so she hid his boxing gear. She thought she was protecting him for his own good.

Eventually, his mother became his biggest fan. Far removed from those early days when Dokiwari would enter the ring barefooted, lacking the money to buy a pair of boxing shoes, the heavyweight from Buguma, Nigeria, now has an unblemished 8-0 professional record—all by knockout. At the rate Dokiwari is going, the only people his mother may have been saving were his potential opponents. He has a string of six straight first-round knockouts and has needed a total of only nine rounds to dispatch his first eight adversaries.

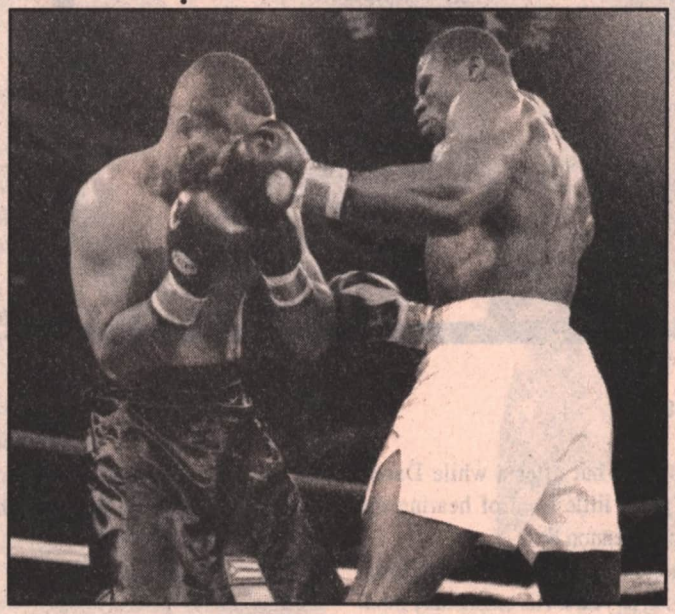


Photos by Frank Vitucci

On January 31, in Atlantic City, Dokiwari, 25, made easy work of Joespeh Kenneth. At a towering 6'5" and weighing 240 pounds, Dokiwari displayed a pulverizing right hand and good footwork on his way to a first-round kayo. With his rippling muscular development, he looks more like a power forward in the National Basketball Association than he does a boxer.

"Duncan's a very nice kid who's very serious and very dedicated," said Thell Torrence, Dokiwari's trainer and co-manager. "The main thing about him is that he wants to be somebody. He's a very sharp puncher and a very accurate puncher. The other thing about him is that he listens very

(Continued on page 79)



Dokiwari bends Kenneth's face with a hook

PRO RECORD

1997		
July 5	Stan Wooten, Moline, IL	KO 1
July 20	Shidean Brown, Indio, CA	KO 2
Aug. 9	Donnell Cummins, San Benito, TX	KO 1
Aug. 23	Jesse Shaw, Atlantic City	KO 1
Sept. 12	Derrick Edwards, Pikesville, MD	KO 1
Oct. 3	Doug Phillips, Atlantic City	KO 1
Nov. 18	Michael Middleton, Pikesville	KO 1
1998		
Jan. 31	Joespeh Kenneth, Atlantic City	KO 1

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs
8	8	0	0	8

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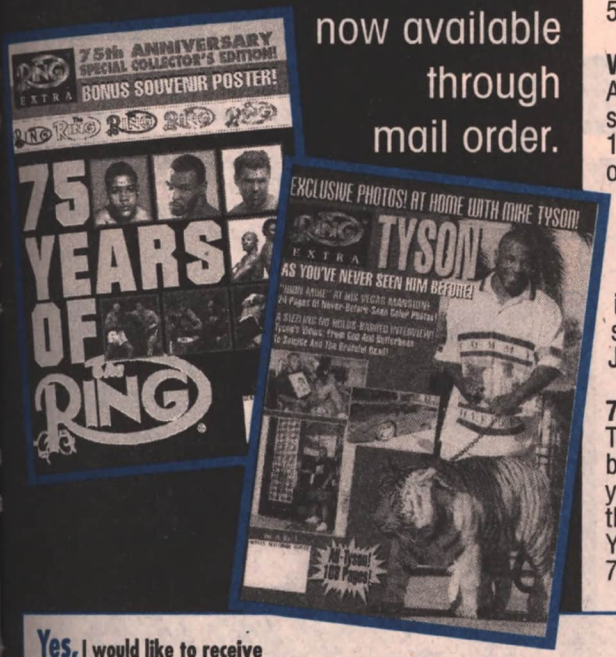

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CAMERA CLICKS

Photo by Jay Lash

It was William Joppy who injured his hand in the first go-round with Julio Cesar Green, but Green didn't want to take any chances of suffering the same fate in their January 31 rematch. In the end, the oversized gloves were nixed, and Joppy captured a 12-round decision to reclaim the WBA middleweight title.

Photo courtesy of KingWorld

"I'm sorry, Jim, you forgot to phrase your answer in the form of a question." HBO blow-by-blow man Jim Lampley appeared on Celebrity Jeopardy! in January and easily outpointed fellow sportscasters Greg Gumbel and Al Michaels, jabbing away with $100 and $200 answers, then scoring the knockout with Daily Doubles. Lampley did the Sweet Science proud.

Photo by Jay Lash

Ah, the daunting task of trying to find a heavyweight's heart. Streaking big man John Ruiz gets checked out prior to his January 31 fight against veteran Tony Tucker. Ruiz dominated his way to an 11th-round kayo, showing his heart not only exists, but is fully functioning.

She may not have the electric hair or the moustache, but the magnanimous grin is unmistakably King. Debbie King, Don's daughter, shows she's primed for action before a recent fight card in Tampa, Florida.

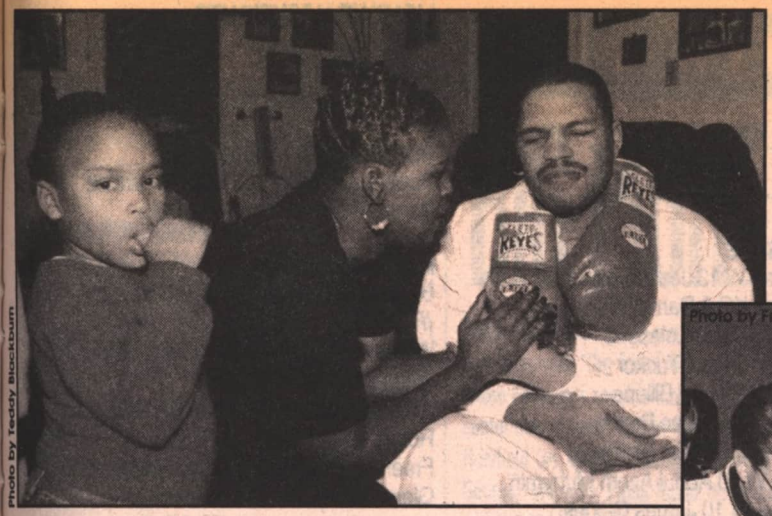

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Gerald McClellan lost his 1995 fight against Nigel Benn, suffering severe brain damage and blindness as a result, but his fight for a peaceful life continues. Any donations to help the former WBC middleweight champion can be sent to: The Gerald McClellan Trust Fund, P.O. Box 660, c/o First Bank of Freeport, Freeport, IL 61032.

Photo by Frank Vitucci

After scoring an eight-round decision over Robert Frazier earlier in the evening, junior middleweight David Reid signs autographs for his fans at a victory party at Atlantic City's Taj Mahal. "The American Dream" would be called upon to produce his signature again a few days later, when he signed a long-term contract with HBO.

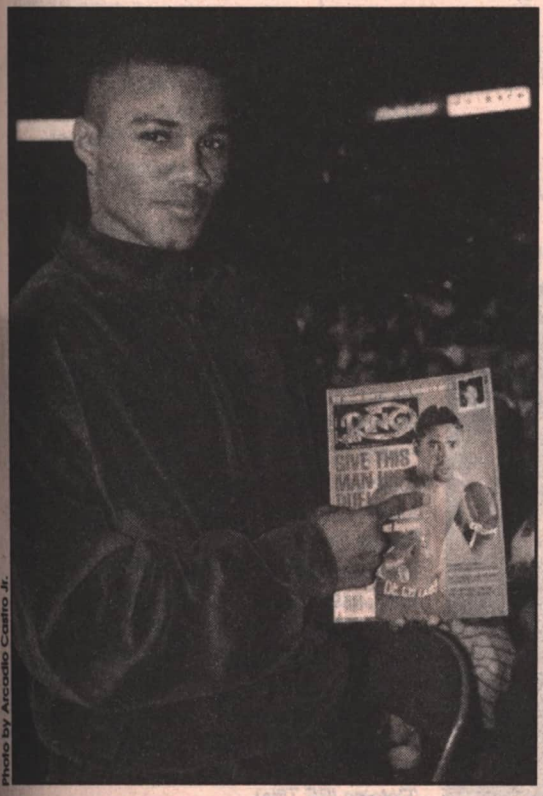

Photo by Arcadio Castro Jr.

The cover of the magazine says, "Give This Man His Due," but Felix Trinidad won't be giving Oscar De La Hoya much of anything until at least 1999. Promoter Bob Arum has made it clear that De La Hoya will remain at welterweight for the remainder of '98, meaning "Tito" will just have to play the weight-gain waiting game until then.

NOSTALGIA CORNER

Boxing ain't exactly rocket science: Former featherweight champ Willie Pep gets an up-close look at the rocket parts produced by Linco, the firm that Pep worked for in the customer relations department after retiring. That's Linco President Lindy Ciardelli shown with Pep. "The Will O' The Wisp" admitted he didn't know much about the product line, and that most of his time was spent sitting up late, talking boxing with customers.

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Hasim Rahman W 12 Jesse Ferguson
Terrance Lewis KO 5 Darroll Wilson
Ray Mercer KO 2 Lee Loiacono
John Ruiz KO 11 Tony Tucker
Larry Donald W 10 Levi Billups
Vaughn Bean KO 2 Isaac Brown
Obed Sullivan KO 7 Keith McKnight
Oliver McCall W 10 Abdul Azem Muhymin
Corey Sanders W 10 James Gaines
Jerry Ballard D 10 Greg Page
Ed Mahone KO 10 Cody Koch
Duncan Dokiwari KO 1 Joespeh Kenneth
Dannell Nicholson KO 3 Everett Mayo
Sean Fletcher KO 1 Kaseem Miley
Derrick Banks W 10 Everton Davis
Ramon Garbey KO 1 Willie Driver
Vitalij Klitchko KO 2 Marcus Rhode
Alonzo Highsmith KO 1 Jaime Munguia
Wolfgramm KO 1 Bill Eaton

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Juan Carlos Gomez W 12 Marcelo Dominguez
(Wins WBC Title)
Saul Montana KO 12 Uriah Grant
Don Diego Poeder W 10 Terry Porter
Terry Dunstan KO 1 Alexander Gurov
Dirk Wallyn KO 5 Geert Blieck
Gilberto Brown KO 8 Franklin Edmundson

Photo by Holly Stein

Will Grigsby rocks Javier Cintron en route to decision victory

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Reggie Johnson KO 5 William Guthrie
(Wins IBF Title)
Konstantin Ochrey W 10 Oleg Mischenko

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Roberto Duran W 10 Felix Hernandez
Darren Obah KO 6 Joseph Polu

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Bernard Hopkins KO 6 Simon Brown
(Retains IBF Title)
William Joppy W 12 Julio Cesar Green
(Regains WBA Title)
Antwun Echols KO 9 Brian Barbosa
Robert Allen KO 3 Lloyd Bryan
Freeman Barr KO 7 Tommy Small
Glenn Catley KO 8 Neville Brown

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Laurent Boudouani D 12 Guillermo Jones
(Retains WBA Title)
David Reid W 8 Robert Frazier
Anthony Jones KO 1 Alex Bunema
Oba Carr KO 4 Jesse Gutierrez
Pedro Ortega W 12 Luis Vazquez
James Page KO 1 Billy Bradley
Hercules Kyvelos KO 3 Raymond Harris

WELTERWEIGHTS
Mark Lewis KO 7 Eduardo Leon
Mike Griffith W 10 Tommy Eaglin
Edgar Ruiz KO 7 Larry Dixon
Giorbis Barthelemy W 10 Alfred Ankamah
Cesar Leiva KO 8 Carlos Montanez
Paul Samuels KO 3 Kasi Kaihau
Makoto Nakahawa W 10 Teruo Nagase

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Khalid Rahilou W 12 Jean-Baptiste Mendy
(Retains WBA Title)
Hector Lopez KO 2 Narcisco Valenzuela
Hector Quiroz W 10 Mark Lewis
Sharmba Mitchell KO 1 Bobby Elkins
Freddy Rojas W 10 Eldon Sneed
Louie Leija KO 2 Guadalupe Rodriguez
Junichi Ono D 10 Hiroyuki Maeda
Reggie Green KO 9 Dezi Ford
Terrance Cauthen W 6 Richard Moore
Joel Casamayor W 6 Javier Diaz
Oktay Urkal KO 3 Craig Houk
Cory Spinks KO 2 Jimmy Williams
Robbie Peden W 4 Leroy Brown

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Shane Mosley KO 8 Demetrio Ceballos
(Retains IBF Title)
Wayne Rigby W 12 Tanveer Ahmed
Richard Kiley W 8 Joey Figueroa
Roger Medal KO 1 Rogelio Ortiz
Jermaine Fields KO 1 Tony Duran
Zoltan Kalocsai KO 4 Anton Glofak

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Santos Rebolledo W 10 Tom Johnson
Arnulfo Castillo KO 3 Rafael Morfin
Justin Juuko KO 5 Didier Schaeffer
Emanuel Burton KO 10 David Toledo
Augie Sanchez KO 1 Oney Hellems

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Billy Hardy W 12 Mehdi Labdouni
Hector Acero-Sanchez W 10 Daryl Pinckney
Tony Wehbee W 10 Fernando Montilla
Takashi Koshimoto W 10 Atsushi Hagiwara
Pablo Chacon KO 4 Angel Rivas
Frankie Toledo KO 5 Steve Maddix

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Enrique Sanchez W 12 Rafael Del Valle
(Wins Vacant WBA Title)
Marco Antonio Barrera KO 5 Angel Rosario
Danny Romero W 10 Joe Manzano
Carlos Navarro W 12 Nicky Bentz
Michael Brodie W 10 Brian Carr
Spencer Oliver KO 4 Fabrice Benichou
Patrick Mullings KO 5 Sita Makinza
Daryl Pinckney KO 5 Manuel Robles
Pastor Maurin KO 5 John Gonzalez
Louis Mancini KO 4 Michael Alldis

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Keiji Yamaguchi KO 7 Waturo Kaito
Hiroki Ioka KO 7 Hidekazu Sakata
Akihiko Nago KO 3 Roy Tarasona

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Johnny Tapia W 12 Rodolfo Blanco
(Retains IBF Title)
Joel Luna Zarate KO 2 Victor Hernandez
Samson Dutchboy Gym KO 4 Felix Marfa
Injoo Cho KO 2 Tanpit Sithlula
Pone Saengmarakot W 10
Suwatchai Nakonluang-Promotion
Pedro Pena W 8 Carlos Gomez

FLYWEIGHTS
Mark Johnson KO 1 Arthur Johnson
(Retains IBF Title)
Will Grigsby W 12 Javier Cintron
Alfonso Zvenyika KO 11 Paul Weir
Saen Sow Ploenchit W 8 Ramil Gevero

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Jake Matlala Tech. Win 8 Victor Burgos
Carlos Murillo W 10 Nelson Dieppa
Atsushi Sai KO 9 Kenya Orihara

STRAWWEIGHTS
Wolf Tokimitsu W 12 Nico Thomas
Surachai Saengmarakot W 10
Jerry Pahayahay
Keitaro Hoshino KO 9 Makoto Suzuki

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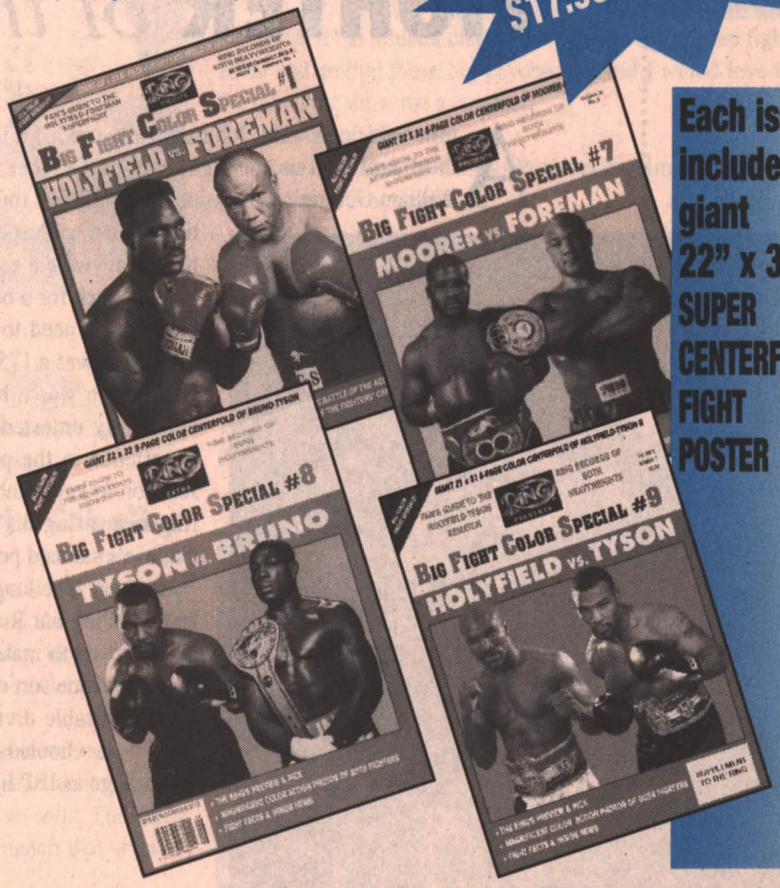

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

A little vacation was all Johnson really needed. Fighting for just the second time since losing his third consecutive title fight back in October of 1995, the man known as "Sweet" turned William Guthrie's expression sour with five rounds of dominant boxing. As Guthrie's frustration turned to desperation in the fifth round, the defending IBF light heavyweight champion missed with a wild right hand, leaving himself open for a one-punch knockout from Johnson. The referee didn't even need to finish the count; Johnson, a blown-up middleweight, was a 175-pound champion.

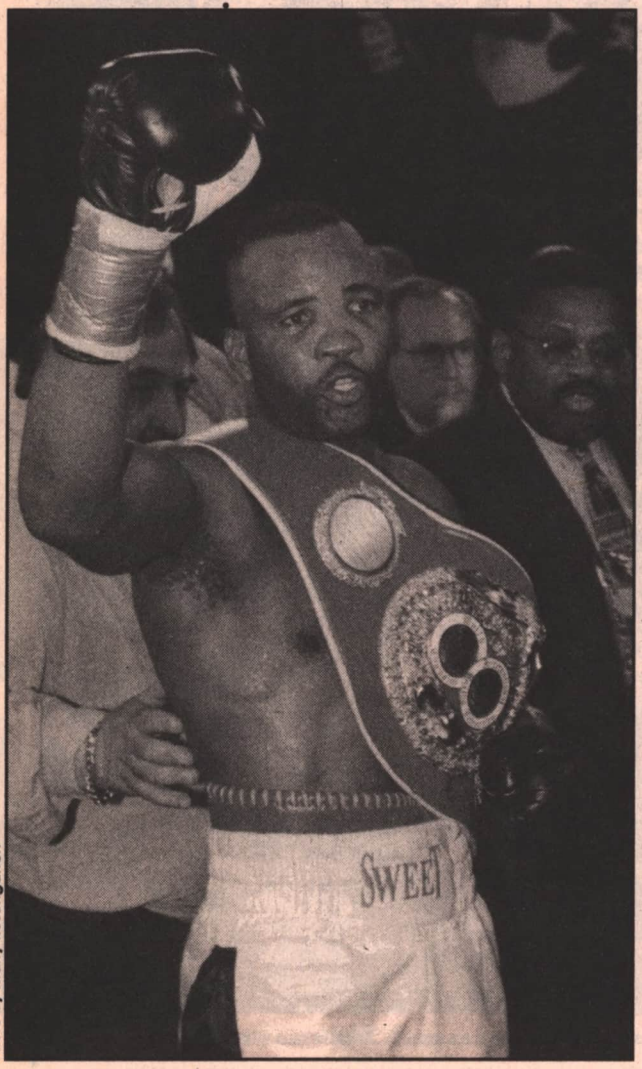


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Johnson was a heavy underdog against the undefeated—but apparently untested—Guthrie. Despite only 22 seconds of ring experience in the previous 28 months (that's how long it took Johnson to kayo Robert Doyle in July of '97), Johnson showed no ring rust, using his superior speed and boxing skills to prevent Guthrie's vaunted power from becoming a factor.

It didn't take long for the former WBA middleweight champ to begin calling out Roy Jones, but Johnson is not nearly enough of an attraction to make that fight a reality. Instead, Johnson should try to set some sort of standard for consistency in what is currently a very unstable division. With his period of inactivity over, the slick, well-schooled Johnson could enjoy a lengthy, successful, and sweet reign as IBF light heavyweight champion.

• • • •

Reggie Johnson

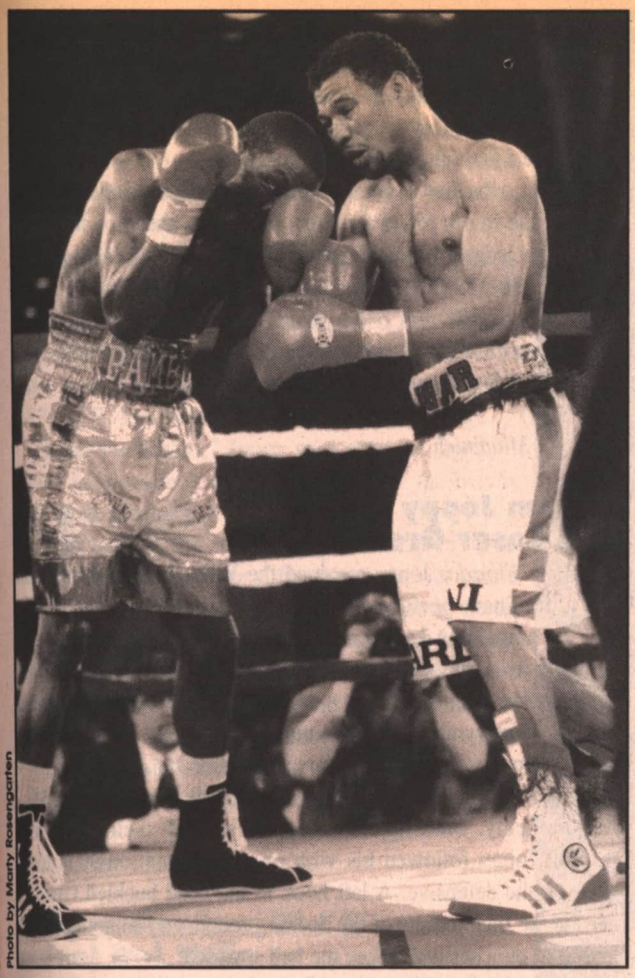


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Mosley was on target against Ceballos

Shane Mosley KO 8 Demetrio Ceballos

Uncasville, Connecticut: After two lackluster performances in a row, IBF lightweight champion Mosley, 135, Pomona, California, defended the title against Ceballos and showed why he is arguably the best lightweight in the world today. He thoroughly battered the very game and incredibly resilient Ceballos, 135, finally halting him at 2:34 of the eighth round.

Fighting as if he was on automatic pilot, Ceballos was able to initially withstand Mosley's speed and power, and never stopped coming forward as he tried against all odds to win. The fight turned out to be a very competitive one-sided match that showed the best of both men.

Mosley, 25, tattooed the 24-year-old Ceballos, 20-2 (13), a native of Colon, Panama, now living in Brooklyn, New York, with an assortment of combinations to the body and head. Although he often landed the punches at will, he could not discourage the game challenger. Mosley's normally gentle green eyes took on a feral glint as he constantly planted himself and battered the ever-charging Ceballos with vicious right hand leads followed by pulverizing left hooks to the ribs, liver, and head.

In the fourth round, Mosley, 26-0 (24), dropped Ceballos with just such a combination, but the extremely proud challenger got up at the count of six. It appeared certain that he was through for the night, but his gritty determination garnered an even more favorable review by those in attendance when he refused to fold and weathered another particularly vicious assault. As determined as Ceballos was, Mosley was equally determined to show that his less-than-stellar title-winning effort against Phillip Holiday and initial defense against Manuel Gomez were aberrations.

For the next three rounds, Mosley tore into Ceballos, landing staggering blows that could have toppled a small building. In the seventh round, Mosley was warned for the last time for throwing low blows by referee Eddie Cotton (USA), and was penalized for the same offense in the next round. Mosley protested, but the point loss seemed to stoke his fires even more, and before long he was tearing into Ceballos with even greater intensity. Working him into a neutral corner, Mosley threw a barrage of punches that dropped the challenger for good with a booming right to the head.

Although Ceballos had put up a gallant effort, none of the judges, Don Ackerman (USA), Robert Paolino (USA), or Glenn Feldman (USA), gave him a round.

"He was a very tough opponent, but I just kept chopping away," said the jubilant champion. "I just want to keep fighting on HBO and getting those big paychecks. And I would love to unify the title. Just show me a contract."

Television: HBO

Promoters: Cedric Kushner Promotions, America Presents, and the Mohegan Sun Casino

(2-6-98)

Robert Mladinich

Reggie Johnson KO 5 William Guthrie

Uncasville, Connecticut: This was supposed to be an HBO coming-out party for IBF light heavyweight champion Guthrie, 174, Wilmington, Delaware, who was making the first defense of the title against fellow southpaw Johnson. Many boxing insiders considered Guthrie the only real threat to beat Roy Jones in the

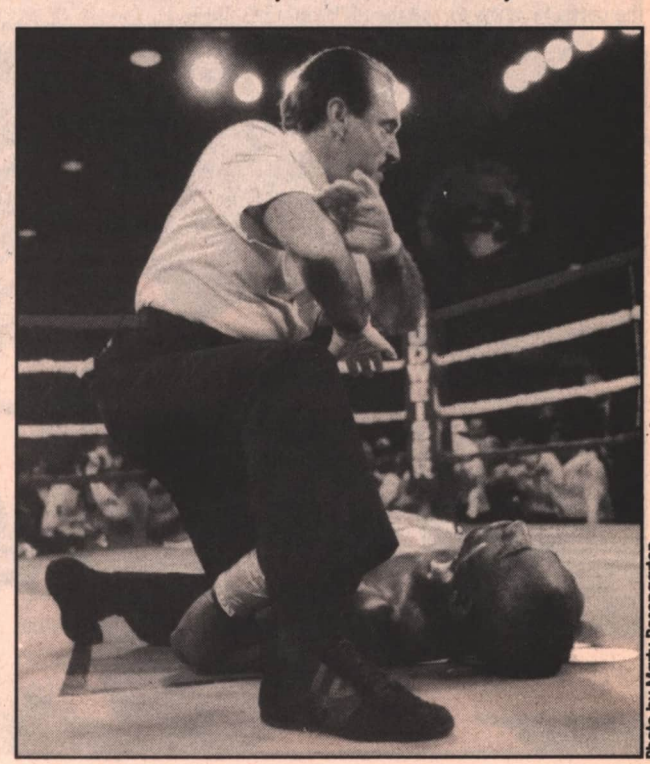


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Ref Steve Smoger ends Guthrie's reign

division. In a startling upset, Johnson, 172½, Houston, Texas, beat Guthrie's body with sporadic, well-placed blows before knocking him out with a right hook that landed flush on Guthrie's chin and dropped him in a heap at 1:58 of the fifth round.

Johnson, 31, a former WBA middleweight champion and an overwhelming underdog, fought only twice in the past 29 months as he rode out managerial contracts that he felt were not in his best interests. When he got the opportunity to challenge Guthrie, 31, few people gave him a chance of even lasting the distance.

Guthrie, 24-1 (21), had created quite an aura as a steely-eyed ex-convict with malevolence in his heart every time he stepped in a ring. Johnson, 37-5-1 (24), never doubted for a minute he would emerge victorious and even whispered at a prefight press conference that he had once witnessed Guthrie quit in a gym war. A lethargic Guthrie, who had probably viewed the veteran Johnson as too shopworn to pose a formidable challenge, did not have a chance to quit in this fight. When Johnson landed the devastating blow, the wide-eyed Guthrie's whole body froze as if paralyzed. After being dropped in the center of the ring, his head bounced on the canvas and he lay motionless for a long time. Even as paramedics worked on him, he did not budge. Guthrie was taken to a local hospital as a precautionary measure, before being released the next day.

Prior to the official announcement proclaiming him the new champion, Johnson kneeled on the canvas, his body convulsing with joyous sobs. "I fell down and prayed because I was so overcome with emotion," he said later. "He was banking on me being off for two years when I was [having managerial troubles]. But I turned those two years into a plan and made them work for me. Tonight, it worked for me, baby."

Johnson, who is eager to challenge WBC titlist Jones, gave the lion's share of credit to his trainer Jesse Reid, who he said devised the perfect plan to topple the high-riding Guthrie.

"I got a great supporting cast, but Jesse thought up that pat-pat-pat to the body and right to the head," he explained. "He said that would beat him, and he was right on the money. Jesse's my gravy train. Even though I'm not naming names, he'll help me figure out a way to beat that other guy [Roy Jones], too."

Johnson, who had a point deducted by referee Steve Smoger (USA) in the fourth round for a low blow, was ahead on the cards of all three judges. Leroy Brown (USA) and Don O'Neil (USA) each had it 38-37, while Clark Sammartino (USA) had it 39-36.

Television: HBO

Promoters: Cedric Kushner Promotions, America Presents, and the Mohegan Sun Casino

(2-6-98)

Robert Mladinich

William Joppy W 12 Julio Cesar Green

Tampa, Florida: Joppy regained the WBA middleweight title with a dominant performance at the Ice Palace, home of the NHL's Tampa Bay Lightning. The hungry ex-champion took command from the opening bell and did not relinquish it until the championship rounds, when it was too late for Green to pull out a win. The win symbolized redemption for Joppy, 27, who was dethroned by Green in a controversial decision last August.

As he did in their first meeting, Joppy, 159, Washington, D.C., started quickly. Both fighters tried to establish their respective jabs, but Joppy followed his with crisp combinations that kept Green on the defensive. A left hook to the head buckled Green's knees in the final minute of the opening round, and Joppy landed a handful of punches just before the bell sounded.

Green, 160, Brooklyn, New York, making his first defense of the title, outworked Joppy in the second round, but did not win another round until the eighth (on one judge's scorecard). Joppy

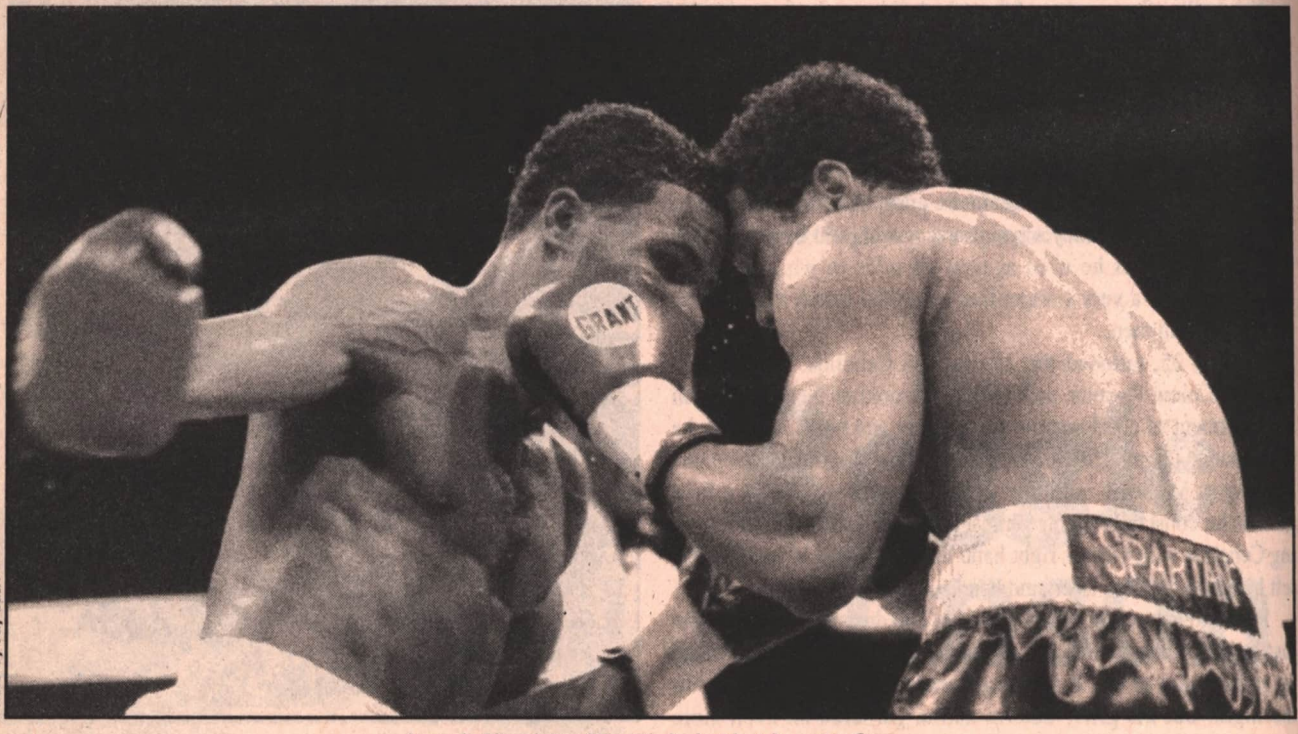


Photo by Jay Lash

Joppy (left) reclaimed the title he lost last August to Green

controlled the action in the third with an active, accurate, spearing jab, followed by right uppercuts and overhand rights to the head. On those occasions when Green did manage to get off a few punches, Joppy eluded or blocked most of them. And Green, 27, hurt himself with a point deduction in the ninth round for butting.

Joppy's win was unanimous: Paul Herman (USA) was on the money with a score of 117-110, while judges Medardo Villalobos (Panama) and Julio Roldan (Venezuela) saw it closer, 117-113 and 117-112, respectively. Joppy improved to 25-1-1 (19); Green fell to 22-3 (15). The referee was Max Parker Jr. (USA).

"I feel vindicated," Joppy said after the fight. "I should have taken it in August, but now the belt is back where it belongs."

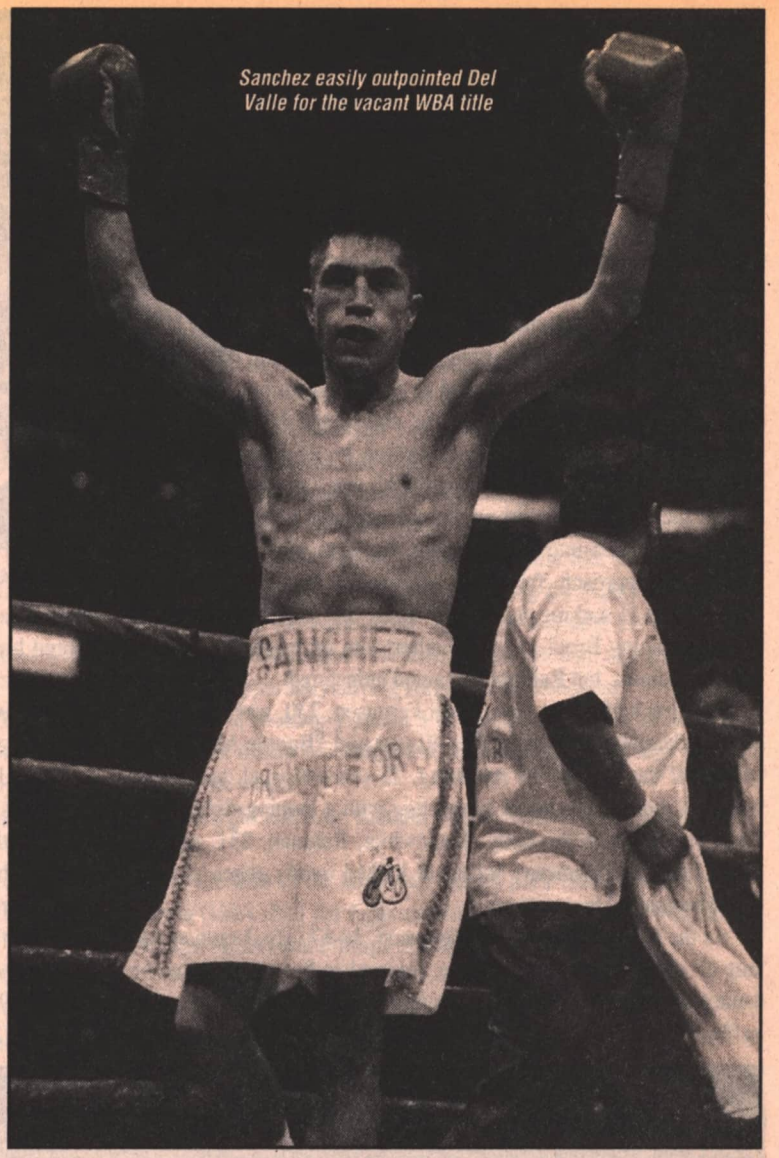
Joppy said he felt that he controlled Green as he had last August, but "the difference here was that I trained longer." He took the first fight against Green on 11 days notice; he also broke a knuckle in his right hand in the first meeting. "But if I had it [the August fight] all to do over again, I would still have taken it on short notice. That's what champions do."

Television: Showtime

Promoter: Don King Productions

(1-31-98)

Ken Knox



Sanchez easily outpointed Del Valle for the vacant WBA title

Enrique Sanchez W 12 Rafael Del Valle

Lake Charles, Louisiana: Considering the prize, the matchup at the Isle of Capri Casino between the number-one and number-two contenders for the vacant WBA junior featherweight championship figured to be a hard-fought slugfest.

It wasn't.

Sanchez, the number-two contender, pounded out a dull, workmanlike decision over number-one contender Del Valle. Despite experience in three title bouts, Del Valle, 122, Santurce, Puerto Rico, fought as if he was in uncharted territory while Sanchez, 122, Mexico City, Mexico, dutifully tried to make a go of things in his first crack at a world crown.

Aside from the short, straight left that dropped Del Valle near the end of the fourth, the night's most rousing action came from the stands, where a collection of Sanchez fans clapped vinyl seat cushions together while chanting, "May-hee-co! May-hee-co!"

According to Sanchez, 25, neither championship fight jitters nor similarity in style contributed to the uneventful battle.

"I felt I was going to knock him out," explained the champion through an interpreter as he peeled a pair of stiff new boots from his feet. "But these blisters began to burn in the sixth round, and I dealt with it," he continued, exposing torn and bleeding blisters on the soles of each foot.

"I did everything I could to win," said a dejected Del Valle, 30. "I did do my best, but it wasn't my night."

Both fighters began tentatively and drew boos from the crowd, which was pumped up by the preceding cruiserweight war between Don Diego Poeder and Terry Porter, as early as the end of the second stanza. But it was Del Valle, 23-2-1 (17), who had his only good round in the ninth when he landed several hard shots and bloodied the nose of Sanchez, who stayed gun-shy throughout.

For Sanchez, 24-0 (17), whose still-developing skills add a measure of expectation to his future defenses, it is back to the gym for more work, particularly on the jab. On the other hand, it is refreshing to see his public relations skills are already well-honed. Asked by a reporter why he doesn't smile more, especially as a newly crowned champion who will become a regular on television, Sanchez paused, shrugged, and replied, "It's a factory defect."

Judge Barry Orgeron (USA) saw the fight 116-111, Guy Jutras (Canada) had it 117-111, and Enrique Portocarrero (Nicaragua) scored it 117-113, all in favor of Sanchez. The referee was Johnny Femia Jr. (USA).

Television: ESPN

Promoter: Top Rank

(2-8-98)

Charlie Bier

Hasim Rahman W 10
Jesse Ferguson

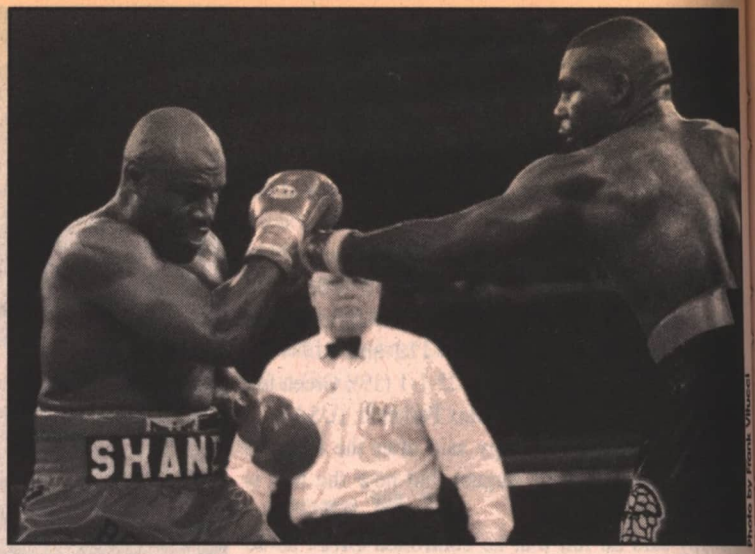


Photo by Frank Vitucci

Uninspired Rahman still had enough to beat "The Boogie Man"

Atlantic City, New Jersey: Despite winning a unanimous 12-round decision over veteran trialhorse Ferguson on the Bernard Hopkins-Simon Brown card at the Taj Mahal, don't expect to see to see Rahman back on HBO anytime soon. The Baltimore heavyweight virtually eliminated himself from further appearances on the cable network with his monotonous, passionless performance.

True, the undefeated Rahman, 26-0 (21), won with room to spare and even managed to put Ferguson on the deck for a brief count near the end of the 10th round, but the dreary manner in which he accomplished his mission left viewers and HBO execs reaching for the No-Doz. Except on the rare occasion when he was pressured into fighting hard, Rahman took a safety-first approach, frequently staring out into the audience as if seeking motivation from the sea of bored faces. Trainer Tommy Brooks tried to exhort him on to greater heights between rounds, but Rahman remained uninspired.

The first half of the bout, when Ferguson, 230, was still fresh, was moderately interesting. The 40-year-old "Boogie Man" tried to cut off the ring on his retreating, 25-year-old rival, and every now and then succeeded in connecting with a looping right to the head or a hook to the body. Meanwhile, Rahman, 231, pecked away from the perimeter, but never looked overly eager to trade with the gnarled journeyman.

As the bout progressed and Ferguson, 24-17 (16), began to run out of steam, Rahman became somewhat braver, but never launched anything resembling a sustained attack. Ferguson, who suffered a cut over his left eye in the fourth, made one last push in the 10th, and was having his best round in a while when Rahman floored him with a left hook to the temple. The bell rang as the Philadelphian was struggling to his feet, but Rahman stuck to his conservative methods in the 11th and 12th, coasting home a safe but unsung winner.

Judge John Stewart had Rahman ahead by 118-109, while his colleagues, Melvina Lathan and Kason Cheeks (all three from the USA), both scored the bout 119-108. THE RING made it closer at 116-113, but agreed with the official arbitrators that Rahman was the winner.

The referee was Randy Neumann (USA).

Promoter: Cedric Kushner Productions

(1-31-98)

Nigel Collins

Photo by Frank Vitucci

Lewis floored Wilson in the fifth and forced the stoppage moments later

Terrance Lewis KO 5
Darroll Wilson

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: All it took was one massive overhand right by Lewis, and the damage was done to "Doin' Damage." Wilson's nickname didn't prove nearly as accurate as Lewis' "KO" monicker, as the Philadelphian broke up the monotony of an uninspired contest between the two heavyweight hopefuls with a booming shot to the jaw in the closing seconds of the fourth.

Atlantic City native Wilson staggered to his corner, and was still reeling when the bell sounded to start the fifth. Lewis, 25, dropped the 31-year-old for a six-count with a barrage of lefts and rights early in the round, and though Wilson tried to fight on, referee John Carroll (USA) stopped the fight when Wilson absorbed a tremendous right hand and a half-dozen followup shots after regaining his footing.

Wilson, 222, controlled the first two rounds with relative ease, as Lewis, 231½, appeared tentative and perhaps even fearful

of the power that had kayoed the likes of Shannon Briggs and Courage Tshabalala in previous bouts. Wilson used a double jab to set up a strong left-right combination late in the first, and played the role of pursuer until the third round. Lewis finally scored early in the third, catching Wilson with a right hand and then using his jab to win a generally sloppy round.

Lewis opened the fourth with a sequence of lefts to the head and rights to the body, but Wilson retaliated by doubling up his jab again and catching his larger opponent with a left hand. Amidst a torrent of boos from the capacity crowd at the Blue Horizon, Lewis pinned Wilson along the ropes, grinding away patiently until he struck with the right hand that marked the beginning of the end for Wilson.

Though Wilson protested Carroll's decision to stop the fight 59 seconds into the fifth, his legs were wobbly enough and his eyes glassy enough to justify the referee's ruling. Several minutes later, Wilson, 20-2-2 (14), nearly toppled over trying to leave the ring.

Wilson, who declined to comment after the fight, had built a reputation on extricating himself from nearly disastrous situations. With that in mind, co-manager Pat Doran had some unkind words for the official.

"I don't know why this guy stopped it so quick," Doran argued. "If you're a referee and you know Darroll, you have to let it go on a while longer." Added Wilson's other co-manager, Butch Mitchell: "They need to get people in there who know what they're doing."

For Lewis, 23-3-1 (17), the upset victory provided redemption for his unexpected losses in 1997 at the hands of Levi Billups and James Gaines.

"I knew I could beat him," a jubilant Lewis said. "I've never been so confident that I could beat somebody. My team don't have the money [of other top heavyweight contenders]. I came up the hard way, had to work my way up, not against hand-picked opposition. I just wanted to make a statement, and this put me back where I wanted to be."

Television: USA Network

Promoter: Peltz Boxing Promotions Inc.

(2-3-98)

Eric Raskin

Verno Phillips KO 9 Julian Jackson

Tunica, Mississippi: A boxing adage says that comebacks at an advanced fighting age usually don't go over so well. In a fight that failed to disprove this theory, streaking Verno Phillips, 28, starched used-up 37-year-old Julian Jackson with one crisp shot. Phillips, Troy, New York, grounded "The Hawk" with a vicious left hook that left Jackson, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, on the canvas at the Grand Casino Convention Center for several minutes.

Jackson, 149¼, entered the ring to a reggae song. He appeared relaxed as he danced to the lyrics that touted a certain fighter who used to hold the WBC and WBA junior middleweight titles as well as the WBC middleweight crown. On the other hand, Phillips, 152¼, seemed jittery and gave the ex-champion a deferential nod as he waited for the prefight instructions. The slick boxing Phillips needn't have worried. He controlled the action from the outset.

Jackson, 55-5 (49), plodded after Phillips, 30-8-1 (15), and got nothing but a leather facial massage for his efforts. He was cut late in the third by what referee Fred Steinwinder III (USA) ruled a headbutt. Jackson had his best round in the sixth, when he stunned Phillips with flurries that he couldn't capitalize on.

The seventh marked the beginning of the end. In a series of wild exchanges, both men hurt each other, but it was Jackson who was pinned in the corner as the bell sounded. Jackson clapped vigorously while wobbling back to his stool.

In the eighth, Jackson had nothing left. A jab from Phillips buckled his legs. Jackson's only hope was the huge punch that was his trademark. It would never come, though. After the left hook put him down at the 2:09 mark of the ninth, Jackson was counted out.

"I didn't expect him to be coming at me like that. I expected him to run more," said Jackson following the fight, not realizing that he began the fight as the aggressor and only his ineffectiveness reversed the roles. "He didn't catch me with any good shots," he added, apparently having forgotten the knockout.

Phillips, looking good in a division that boasts no superstars among its lineup of champions, insisted that he belongs with the best in the world.

"I'll fight whoever. Just put 'em in front of me. I'll fight 'em," he said.

At the time of the knockout, judges Billy Hutt (USA) and John Femia (USA) had the fight scored 78-74 for Phillips, while Elmo Adolph (USA) had Phillips ahead by 79-73.

Television: ESPN

Promoter: Top Rank

(1-23-98)

Charlie Bier ■

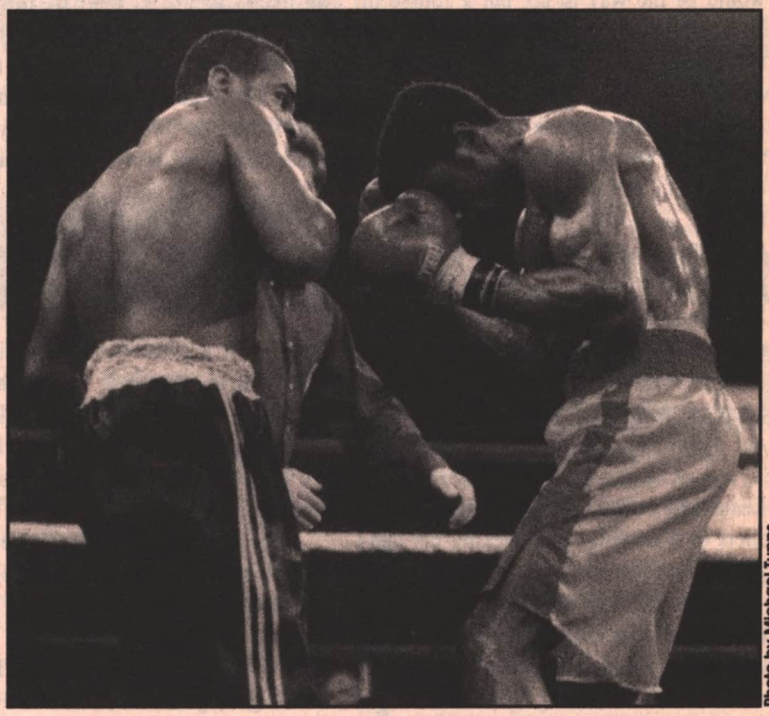


Photo by Michael Tupps

Aggressive Phillips forced Jackson to cover up

Tyson

(Continued from page 21)

would have taught Tyson how to counteract such tactics years before Holyfield used a modified version—unlike Smith and Green, he punched between clinches—to stop him in their first encounter.

If there's ever going to be a third Holyfield-Tyson fight, and economics virtually dictate that there will be, Tyson has to do something vastly different if he's going to have a chance of winning. Having a teacher on board who can figure out a way to negate "The Real Deal's" proven method of beating Tyson would be a huge plus.

7. A busy schedule: While financial considerations would prevent Tyson from reverting to the two-fights-a-month schedule he followed during his mercurial rise to the top, one would hope that a new promoter would understand the benefits of having Tyson fight more than twice a year. A busy Tyson has always been a happy Tyson, and if this old dog is going to learn new tricks, there's nothing like on-the-job experience to smooth the rough edges.

Fighting frequently would also give Tyson an opportunity to rebuild his battered ego before going up against a truly formidable foe. This is not to suggest that a diet of Bruce Seldons and Frank Brunos would be the way to go, but a couple of Ray Mercers or Larry Donalds on the way to Holyfield or Lennox Lewis wouldn't be a bad idea.

8. Free agent status: True, Tyson once told Larry Merchant he'd never fight on HBO again, but don't be too surprised if he ends up eating those words. Minus King, Tyson would be free of his obligation to fight exclusively for SET/Showtime, which would facilitate making matches with big name heavyweights who are locked into long-term contracts with other networks. With King out of the way, we'd finally find out if Tyson was prevented from fighting Lennox Lewis because of contractual conflicts or was really just ducking the dangerous Englishman all along.

9. Get his wife off his back: Among the many stories circulating during the latest round of Tyson-is-dumping-King stories is the one involving Tyson's wife, Dr. Monica Turner. According to published reports, Mrs. Tyson has been prodding her husband to take a closer look at how his finances are being handled. At one point she is reported to have told him not to come home until he has straightened out his business affairs. This has a definite deja vu feel to it, as it was Tyson's first wife, actress Robin Givens, who stormed the office of Tyson's original manager, Bill Cayton, and demanded to assume control of the champ's checkbook. But regardless of who shares the marital bed with Mr. Mike, like any man, he feels a lot better going off to work in the morning when things are serene on the domestic front.

10. A new career waiting if boxing turns sour: While Tyson's involvement with the WWF began under King's jurisdiction, there's no reason to believe that Iron Mike couldn't further cultivate his affiliation with professional wrestling without King. And while this is not something that necessarily brings joy to the hearts of boxing purists, it could very well create considerable income with a minimum amount of risk, something we can all relate to.

Emotionally, having a second lucrative career could easily backfire, especially if knowing he has an alternative source of income makes Tyson complacent about boxing. But having a cushion to fall back on might also give him the peace of mind he needs to grow. Fear of failure has always been the greatest impediment to progress. Maybe knowing that his financial future isn't entirely dependent on boxing will loosen up Tyson sufficiently to persuade him to risk reinventing himself. ■

Reid

(Continued from page 23)

think he's a great-looking prospect, a future world champion. He has the speed and power and he can go as far as he wants in this game. David is the future, but I am the present. This is my time; his time is coming."

Four days later, while in New York City to announce his new multifight deal with HBO, Reid had reverted to his customary, congenial self.

"I don't have anything against Bernard. He's a good guy, and I've learned a whole lot from him," he said. "I was hyped. It's tough to be humble just coming from a brawl in the ring. I said what I said because the first thing I remembered, when somebody asked me what I thought about his fight, was that Bernard had said I was still a baby on Similac and needed to get on whole milk."

Reid, 24, laughed as he recounted Hopkins' putdown. He knows a good line when he hears one, even if it's coming from a rival. Outside of the ring, there doesn't seem to be a malicious bone in Reid's body, and that's what made his blast all the more conspicuous. One person who wasn't amused by Reid's uncharacteristic outburst was his trainer and adviser, Al Mitchell, the father figure who has been in the Philadelphian's corner since he first came to the gym at age 10.

"I don't allow trash talk," said Mitchell, who phoned Hopkins the day following the fight to apologize for Reid's remarks. "David was just over-excited."

Mitchell was also peeved because Reid had failed to follow instructions during his bout with Robert Frazier, who gave the Olympic hero several uncomfortable moments before dropping a unanimous eight-round decision on the Hopkins-Brown card.

"David did everything wrong, but still won the fight," said Mitchell.

Well, maybe not everything. Reid dropped Frazier, 15-2 (11), to one knee in the first round with a clean right to the head. But the Rochester, New York, resident beat the count and was fully recovered by the end of the round. And when Frazier began landing some of his own punches in the second and third, Reid understood he was in for the sternest test of his fledging pro career.

"I knew Frazier was gonna be tough, because I fought him in the amateurs," said Reid. "But he moves his head a whole lot better now and his right hand is faster than it used to be. Me and Al studied tapes of him and had a strategy, but I didn't execute. I lost my cool when he threw a lot of combinations."

The game plan started to unravel in the fourth when Frazier, 153, got the better of several spirited exchanges. Reid, 155, came back well in the fifth, hurting his adversary with a booming right, but Frazier held on until his head cleared and was vigorously punching back at the bell.

An animated Frazier continued to rally in the early moments of the sixth, but when one of Reid's powershots thudding into his protective cup, the underdog fell to his knees, grimacing in pain. Referee Tony Orlando called a timeout and gave the stricken fighter several minutes to recover. When action resumed, Frazier charged Reid, both hands churning. Several blows found their way into "The American Dream's" face, and at one point he turned partially away from his antagonist and appeared to be appealing to Orlando.

"I was just telling the referee that I was okay," insisted Reid. "A lot of times when a guy is hit with a barrage, the ref just stops the fight. I didn't want him to run in and stop it."

Actually, Orlando never seemed close to stopping the fight. He did, however, penalize Reid a point later in the sixth after another punch landed below the belt, making the fight, at that point, at least, much closer than most had anticipated. But Reid's skill and power took over the final two rounds, and Frazier was rocked by hard punches in both the seventh and eighth, though never completely subdued.

The scores of 77-74 and 77-73 (twice)—all in Reid's favor—were an accurate reflection of what had been the most competitive and entertaining of the three bouts televised by HBO that night. It also told Mitchell, who has final approval on all of Reid's opponents, that additional seasoning is necessary before going after the junior middleweight division's marquee names.

"Frazier is a tough kid, a kid with class," said Mitchell. "I could move David at a slower pace, but these are the sort of fights he needs to learn. He needs two or three more at this level before moving up."

Even then, Mitchell won't be ready to send his masterwork in against the likes of WBC titlist Keith Mullings or IBF boss Yory Boy Campas. What he has in mind are the shopworn men the current 154-pound champion rulers recently disposed.

"After a few more, I'm looking at either Terry Norris or Raul Marquez," said Mitchell.

Still, with Reid earning a six-figure purse every time he's on HBO, the pressure for more attractive opponents is bound to increase. A showdown with Hopkins, however, will have to wait. Even Reid, in his more tranquil moments, acknowledges that.

"I'm 10, 15 fights away from a fight like that," said Reid. "Not that I wouldn't fight Bernard right now, but having heart and being smart are two different things."

In a way, Reid, 7-0 (5), is caught in a timewarp. Because of his Olympic fame, $14.4-million, five-year contract with America Presents, and new deal with HBO, his career is proceeding at a dizzying pace. Even Oscar De La Hoya didn't turn pro on HBO or become part of the cable giant's stable as quickly. It's a high-pressure situation, and how well Reid handles it will go a long way toward determining the course of his career. The trick is to keep Reid's self-confidence and enthusiasm under control without stifling his natural exuberance. Both his vast talent and inexperience were on display in the Frazier fight and in his postfight remarks about Hopkins. Right now, they're all part of the same package. But given time to mature, Reid could grow into the biggest attraction the middleweights have had since the glory days of Sugar Ray Leonard. And when that moment arrives, if indeed it ever does, he'll need a Marvelous Marvin Hagler to test his mettle against.

Who better for the role than the man who calls himself The Executioner? ■

Hopkins

(Continued from page 25)

and says, 'How much are you getting on this contract?' and Shaq calls Coleman up ... Fighters don't communicate. Divide and conquer. Keep them apart, and you can conquer them."

This is radical talk for the fight game. Precious few boxers get the money part right. Hopkins has the voice, charisma, and righteousness to become a galvanizing voice for justice in the sport. He also has what the average fan adores—a knockout punch and a warrior's heart. Plus, he's starting to show he can box with the best of them. To top it off, he has a mouth like a working-class Ali.

But he also has a problem. "He is an excellent middleweight in a very mediocre crop of middleweights," said DiBella.

Every great fighter and fight fan knows that the legends of the sport are defined by

(Continued on page 70)

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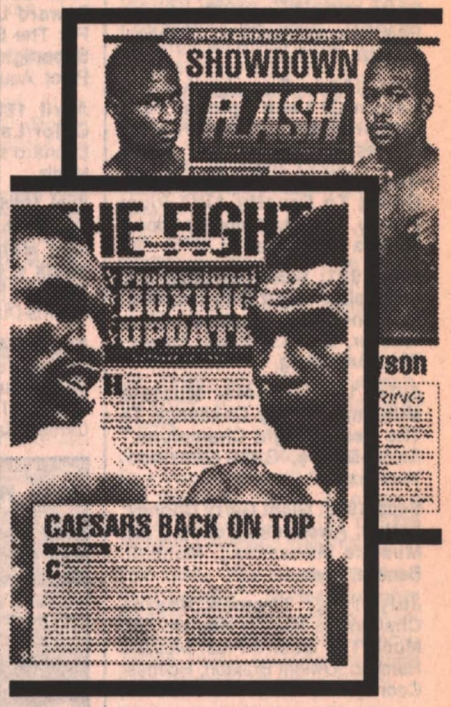

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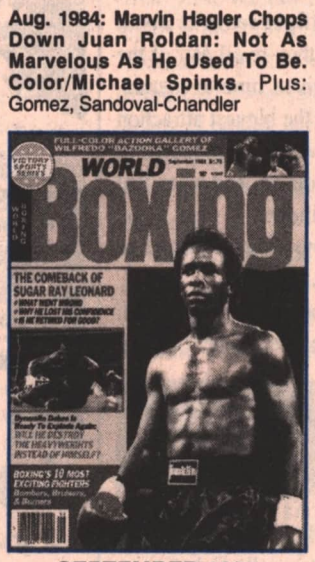

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Hopkins

(Continued from page 67)

their competition. This guides the philosophy—except when it comes to George Foreman—of how HBO picks its fights: Fighters like Angel Manfredy and Arturo Gatti, who mean little to mainstream America, make for a hell of a lot better show together than Bernard Hopkins and, well, just about anybody in the middleweight division.

DiBella didn't expect Brown, 47-7 (34), to beat Hopkins, but he knew the former champion to be cut from quality cloth. For Hopkins, the fight was an opportunity to showcase himself in a prestigious forum. He seized the moment.

"Was Simon too small? Probably," DiBella said. "Was he on the wrong side of his career? Probably. But he's a tough, tough warrior, and Bernard showed total superiority. I think Bernard is far and away the best middleweight in the world. I think he could beat the other champions in the same night. I have no interest in making those fights, but I think Bernard deserved the exposure."

"No one can say Bernard Hopkins' performance was lousy," Hopkins said. "Before people started yawning and picking their nose, he ended it."

The middleweight division is embarrassingly thin. As of Hopkins' fight with Brown, The IBF didn't even rate a number-one and number-two contender. The next three guys were Robert Allen, Robert McCracken, and Antoine Echols. Good fighters, but blips on a destroyer's radar.

So Hopkins looks down. Wearing his promotional hat, he calls on Oscar De La Hoya. He mocks Ike Quartey for continuing to try to squeeze his middleweight body into 147 pounds. He pleads for Trinidad. Then he looks up, obviously at a rematch with Roy Jones. In desperation, the middleweight champion of the world says he will fight anyone from 154 to 175 pounds.

At 33, he's aware of advancing time. He doesn't want to wind up like Terry Norris, who, in a never-ending buildup to a multimillion-dollar showdown with De La Hoya, went over the top and got stopped by Keith Mullings.

"I would love to have those opportunities within a year," Hopkins said. "But I have learned I have to maintain by the crumbs. If it's dragged out till I'm 36 or 37, and they say, 'You want to fight David Reid or Oscar De La Hoya?' If that happens, I'll have to take the crumbs and make a full-course meal. There's a lot of people out there with kids—mother *and* father—making less than $15,000 a year. Bernard, are you in the worst position a person can be in? Not by far. I can continue to win. I can wait until I get in that position to fight a super, mega-fight and make millions of dollars."

Hopefully, for all those who love boxing, that wait won't be for too long. ■

John Scheinman, a frequent contributor to THE RING, is based in Washington, D.C.

Change

(Continued from page 47)

to Vegas or Atlantic City. When legalized gambling spread to the Gulf Coast, Connecticut, and other places, boxing soon followed. Places like Biloxi, Mississippi, Uncasville, Connecticut, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, are now bigger fight towns than Chicago, Detroit, and New York City.

With the advent of casino boxing has come the demise of the clubfight. New York, Philadelphia, and other big cities used to have dozens of venues putting on cards virtually every week where up-and-comers gained their experience before stepping up to bigger challenges. Small-time cards still take place, but fewer and fewer minor promoters are willing to risk thousands of dollars to put on a card that could only break even with a full house.

Controversy has probably been a part of boxing since the first nosebleed as the result of a punch, but the specter of organized crime doesn't seem to hang over the sport as it once did. Boxing was nearly destroyed by scandal in the 1950s, when mob influence and fixed fights were apparently widespread. Fixed-fight conspiracies still abound (how much do you have to pay Mike Tyson to throw a $25-million fight, anyway?), but the Mafia is no longer the culprit of choice. Today's promoters have taken the place of mobsters. Whereas pugs once had to give part of their contracts to a connected "goodfella" to work into the title picture, they now have to sign their future away to a promoter. That is how Don King gained his stranglehold on the heavyweight division, by withholding opportunities until hungry contenders agreed to join his stable.

The sport's very structure has undergone a serious facelift. Where there were once eight major divisions—from flyweight to heavyweight, with no junior or super divisions in between—there are now 17 different weight classifications. There are also multiple champions in every division. With the WBA, WBC, IBF, WBU, WBF, IBA, IBC, WBB, WAA, and countless others all taking a piece of the action, there are now more champions than there were contenders in simpler times. More title belts may make for more championship opportunities for today's boxer, but it also makes for fewer showdowns between the top fighters. Men like Archie Moore may have been ducked for years under the old system, but it also assured that Sandy Saddler and Willie Pep fought, because they were the top two men in their division.

The plethora of titles allows fighters to rise quickly through the ranks. Davey Moore became junior middleweight champion in the early-1980s with just a handful of fights. Some strawweight contenders today are rewarded with championship opportunities in half that time. Kostya Tszyu had a belt at a stage when guys like Fritzie Zivic and Beau Jack were opening shows for their elders.

The amount of money available, and the distribution of it, marks another major change in boxing. It is said that less than 10 percent of today's active fighters make more than 90 percent of the money. For every guy fighting a million-dollar main event on pay-per-view, there are hundreds—maybe even thousands—of pugs toiling away for chump change. An average clubfighter is lucky to earn $100 per scheduled round. Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson have grossed more than $100-million in purses. Robinson, Marciano, Henry Armstrong, and Joe Louis could have pooled their life earnings and not even be able to pay the taxes for any of today's major earners.

The major cable interests like HBO and Showtime have replaced the broadcast networks in attracting the top talent. Television money is often the deciding factor in what fights are made and when.

(Continued on page 73)

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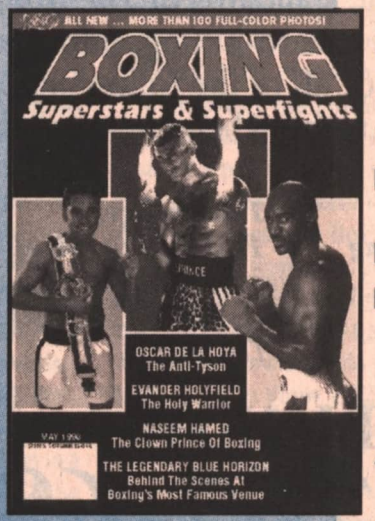

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Change

(Continued from page 70)

The hope for a heavyweight unification between Holyfield and Lennox Lewis rested with the pay-per-view networks. When TVKO couldn't meet the demands of the principals, the fight simply fell apart.

As the pay-cable interests have grown, boxing coverage in the mainstream media has all but disappeared. Networks dabble in the sport on occasion, but not nearly to the degree they did in the 1970s and early-'80s, when the top names all made frequent appearances. Even small-town newspapers carried results from across the country in the '20s and '30s, but only the most mega of mega-fights is afforded coverage these days. The number of full-time boxing writers now employed at major daily papers can be counted on one hand.

Television has also probably helped make the fight game a more colorful form of entertainment. In the days of black-and-white TV, boxers tended to wear just that. One man wore dark trunks, the other light, to better tell the participants apart. Today's tastes run more to fluorescent shades, the brighter the better.

Trunks aren't the only things that are more colorful. Jorge Paez has worn a wedding dress and a nun's outfit—not at the same time, though—into the ring. Angel Manfredy prefers a devil's mask. Hector Camacho may show up as anything from a Desert Storm trooper to a Roman centurion. It's a long way from the days when merely wearing a robe into the ring was a daring fashion statement.

Boxing also used to be a more solitary sport. A fighter would arrive in the ring behind a manager or trainer who carried a bucket as he led him up the steps. Sometimes a second cornerman would even make the trip. Since Robinson and Muhammad Ali introduced the word "entourage" to the punch-for-pay business, the corners keep getting more crowded. All the king's horses and all his men are now part of the event. Riddick Bowe's hangers-on had hangers-on. Holyfield has a boxing coach, a ballet teacher, a conditioning expert, a weight trainer, half his church, a doctor, and an attorney working on his behalf. Roy Jones seems to bring the entire population of Pensacola, Florida, wherever he goes.

The impact of women's rights on society has also found its way between the ropes. Female fisticuffs are on the rise. Christy Martin has been on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*. Lucia Rijker is as much of a household name as any of the cruiserweight champions. Women's boxing was a brief fad in the 1970s, but it has entered the mainstream in the '90s.

Of course, not everything has changed. Jabs, crosses, hooks, and uppercuts are still the four major punches. Slipping and countering are still as popular as sticking and moving. The object of the game is still to hit and not be hit.

Fans can debate which of these many changes have been for the better and which would have been better off forgotten. Fortunately, the more things change the more they stay the same. With gloves or without, black-and-white trunks or technicolor costumes, boxing is still a sport that pits two combatants against each other to punch it out to a decision or a knockout. For that, we can be thankful as we watch for the changes certain to come in the future. ■

Norton

(Continued from page 51)

blind," he said. "So I would go back to the van and listen to the game on the radio. But regardless of what happened, I would always be at his games.

"We were so tight before, it was just a matter of communicating again. And finally we did. You have to understand I was his mother and father from the time he was 13 months old until I remarried when he was 11. He was with me all the time. When you saw him, you saw me. When you saw me, you saw him."

Norton is not one to grind his teeth over the far more lucrative purses top heavyweights make these days. He's quick to speak up for fighters, whether they are from the old days or will be fighting tomorrow. "Most of the guys today are still not making a big bunch," he noted. "Besides, the more you look in the past, the more the future never happens."

And if Norton didn't truly believe that, it's most unlikely he would be around to believe anything at all. ■

Ivan Goldman is THE RING'S West Coast correspondent.

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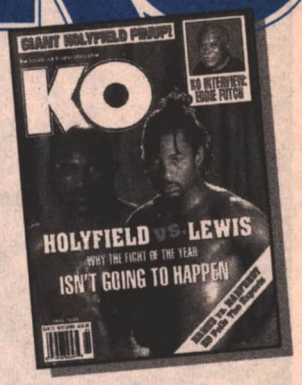

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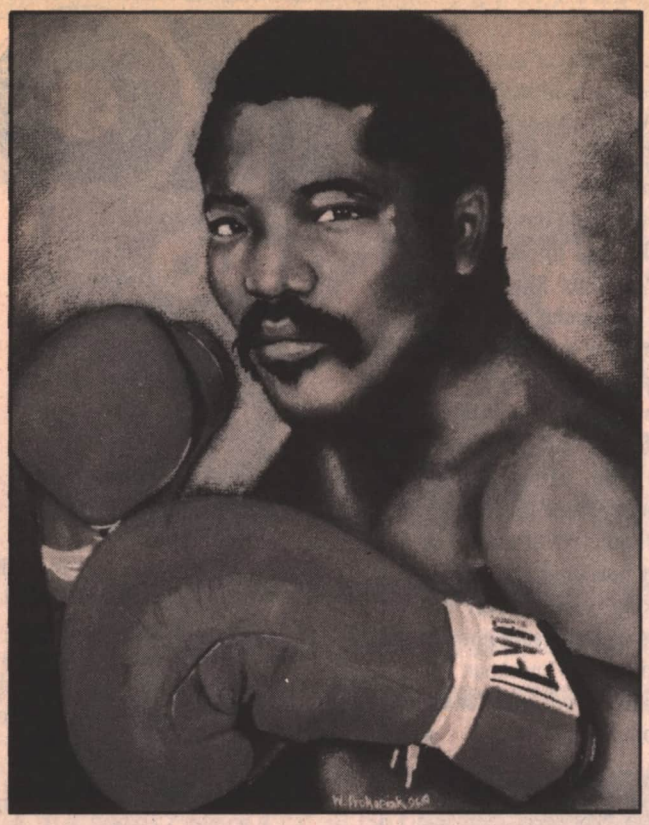

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Valdivia

(Continued from page 53)

The Santa Monica native had announced Little League baseball, Pop Warner football, and high school basketball games, but except for introducing the backyard fights in his neighborhood as a boy, Valdivia had never done boxing when, in 1979, his decision to start a whole new career was sparked by an advertisement in the newspaper about an upcoming bout.

"That's what I wanted to be—a ring announcer!" declared the manager of a Sears automotive outlet.

Given his childhood circumstances, even that job might have seemed like a stretch. Valdivia's father died when he was three, leaving him, his three brothers and three sisters, and their Mexican-native mother, who spoke little English and was already 48 when Danny, the youngest, was born in 1934.

"We grew up in a lot of barrios and were on welfare off and on," recalls Valdivia, now 63. But they were close-knit and hard-working, and motivated by the words Valdivia recalls his mother telling him from early childhood on: "Now you remember that when you go out in front of people, when they're looking at you, they're looking at the Mexican people."

As a boy, Valdivia got involved with CYO boxing, and "thought I was going to be champion of the world." As "Kid Van," he made a few ripples on the Los Angeles amateur scene, but his future was presaged by a high school teacher named Emily Tompkins.

"I took public speaking and drama," Valdivia says, "and one day, she sat me down and said, 'Danny, you have a great voice. Any opportunity you have to speak before people, grab it.' That always stuck with me."

In his senior year, he was Boys' League president and the commencement speaker at his high school graduation. But Valdivia didn't need his voice in his first job, sweeping the streets of Santa Monica with a push-broom. "Times were hard," he says. "I was supporting my mother. We were buying houses for $25 a month. I was really embarrassed. I would see all kinds of people I knew. I could always tell they were surprised to see me sweeping streets."

On top of that, Valdivia was engaged. When he finally got a job at Hughes Aircraft, he told his boss that he and his fiancee, Helen, were getting married soon and so he would need two weeks off. When the request wasn't granted, he quit, got married, and, after the honeymoon, started selling shoes before enlisting in the U.S. Army for two years. He announced base football and baseball games while in the service.

Upon his discharge, Valdivia started his 37½-year career with Sears, working his way to management before deciding, after seeing that newspaper ad, that his future was in announcing boxing matches.

There was one slight problem. "When I went into boxing," he says, "I didn't know a soul. I just went in because it was something I wanted to do. I was old—49—and it took me three years to get a job."

The primary reason for this was Lennon Sr., who was so consummate and entrenched a ring announcer in California that there was no market for anyone else, much less someone whose primary achievement in sports announcing was becoming known as "The Golden Voice Of The Mariners," his children's high school basketball team.

Just about every place he went in search of ring announcing work, Valdivia's pitch was hit out of the park by a variation of the same theme: "I got Jimmy Lennon. Why would I want you?"

It was a difficult argument to rebut, especially since Lennon was Valdivia's idol ever since he saw him do a pro show at Ocean Park Arena in 1943. "He was The Master," says Valdivia. "He made ring announcing a class act. I never emulated his style, but I just wanted to be like him."

But promoters didn't need someone "like" Lennon when they had the real item, a problem that Valdivia ran into again at the Olympic Auditorium one day during his three-year search for a break. He was looking at photos on the walls in the hallway when promoter Aileen Eaton noticed him and demanded to know what he wanted. When he told her, the famed and feared "Dragon Lady" of professional boxing invoked the familiar refrain: "I have the best announcer in the world, Jimmy Lennon. So why would I need you?"

Frustrated from running into that brick wall over and over again, this time the exasperated Valdivia blurted out, "Does he ever get a sore throat?"

Taken aback, Mrs. Eaton took him into her office and told him to sit down on the couch next to her desk. But that didn't mean he was in, as Valdivia found out when he started to lean back against the cushions. "Don't get too comfortable," she barked. "You're not going to be here that long."

Irked anew, Valdivia said, "Mrs. Eaton, I have a lot of respect for you, but you give me the impression that I'm in here begging for something. I'm not. I'm here because I think I have something that might be useful to you."

His chutzpah softened the Dragon Lady a second time. "Honey, sit down, don't get all excited," she said. Then she combed through her Rolodex until she had several names and phone numbers for Valdivia to try in his quest for a foothold in the ring announcing business.

One of them belonged to Johnny Flores, a well-known Los Angeles trainer and manager, and director of the annual Golden Gloves tournament.

"I'm glad you called," he told Valdivia. "I need an announcer for the Gloves. I can use you up to the semifinals, then I have Jimmy Lennon for the semis and finals."

After he hung up the phone, Valdivia ran through his empty house yelling, "I got a job."

He ended up doing not only the preliminary rounds, but the semifinals and finals that first year, too. "Do you think I would use you all these weeks and then bring in Jimmy Lennon?" Flores asked. "You're my man."

Within just two more years, the man who took three years to get his foot in the door was sharing the ring announcing duties at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. That had been one of his goals, and he made it with the support and sleight-of-hand of the man he calls "my boxing grandfather," Maurice "Dub" Harris, currently the president of the World Boxing Hall of Fame.

As a steppingstone to getting the Olympic gig, Harris arranged for Valdivia to be the announcer of some bouts at the Los Angeles Coliseum to commemorate

(Continued on page 77)

BACK ISSUES OF BOXING 88/97

all-new format, featuring a fresh look at the fight game through the eyes of its top-notch writers, columnists, and photographers. "The Fight Fan's Magazine" has, since that time, earned recognition as one of the top boxing magazines around.

Jan. 1988: Why Marvin Hagler Must Return, By Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: Roberto Duran, Vinny Pazienza, Darrin Van Horn, Marlon Starling, Holyfield-Qawi preview.

March 1988: A Look Back At '87, And A Look Ahead To '88. Also: Bobby Czyz, Julio Cesar Chavez, Tyson-Holmes preview.

April 1988: Thomas Hearns: Why He Will Beat Leonard And Hagler ... And Why He Won't. Also: Mike McCallum, Ramirez-Whitaker preview, light heavyweights.

May 1988: Leonard, Hagler, Camacho, Spinks: Have You Seen These Men? Also: Mike Tyson, Donny Lalonde, Wimpy Halstead, Holyfield-Cooper preview.

July 1988: Tyson's Former Trainer Reveals: "Michael Spinks Will Knock Out Mike Tyson!" Also: Whitaker-Ramirez, Carlos Zarate, Hearns-Barkley preview.

Sept. 1988: A Revealing Look At Boxing's Best And Worst. Also: Dennis Andries, Calvin Grove, Tate-Nunn preview.

Oct. 1988: No Doubts Remain: Mike Tyson Defeats Spinks For The Undisputed Championship. Also: Thomas Hearns, Davey Moore, Haugen-Rosario preview, deserving and undeserving contenders.

Nov. 1988: Mike Tyson vs. The Heavyweight Greats: Ali, Dempsey, Louis, Marciano. Also: Orlando Canizales, John Mugabi, Evander Holyfield, Ray Mancini, Chavez-Ramirez preview.

Dec. 1988: Leonard vs. Lalonde: Can Sugar Ray Actually Lose? Also: Michael Spinks, Michael Nunn, Julian Jackson, fighters in peril.

Jan. 1989: The Mike Tyson Quiz. Also: Donald Curry, Tony Lopez, Barkley-Duran preview.

Feb. 1989: Tyson vs. Bruno: A Mismatch No Longer? Also: Vito Antuofermo, Orlin Norris, key moments in boxing history, Louie Lomeli, Michael Moorer.

March 1989: A Look Back At '88, And A Look Ahead To '89. Also: Sugar Ray Leonard, Thomas Hearns, Darrin Van Horn, Haugen-Whitaker preview.

July 1989: Born Again ... Again: Duran Conquers Barkley. Also: Tyson-Bruno, Olympians, Tommy Gallagher, Chavez-Mayweather preview.

Sept. 1989: Sugar Ray Robinson: Photographic Tribute To The Master. Also: Pernell Whitaker, Mark Breland, Richard Steele, Tyson-Williams preview.

Nov. 1989: 10 Reasons Why Thomas Hearns Punished Ray Leonard. Also: Michael Moorer, Orlando Canizales, Al Braverman, Chavez-Taylor preview.

Jan. 1990: Who Should Tyson Fight: Evander Holyfield Or George Foreman? Also: Pernell Whitaker, Felt Forum, Ross Greenburg, Leonard-Duran preview.

March 1990: Can Julio Cesar Chavez Be Americanized? Also: Thomas Hearns, Tim Witherspoon, Prince Charles Williams, Foreman-Cooney preview.

July 1990: Buster Douglas: He Wasn't Playing Games. Also: Mike Tyson, Mike McCallum, greatest upsets, Hearns-Olajide preview.

Sept. 1990: The Light Heavyweights' Star-Studded Future. Also: Starling-Nunn, Tracy Spann, George Benton, John L. Sullivan, Tyson-Foreman preview.

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman: It's Coming! Also: Bobby Czyz, Jeff Lampkin, Sean O'Grady, Bob Fitzsimmons, Nunn-Curry preview.

Jan. 1991: No More Lightweight Concerns: Is Pernell Whitaker The Man To Beat Chavez? Also: Aaron Davis, Pazienza-Haugen III, Roberto Duran, Bill Parcells, Tommy Burns, Williams-Moorer preview.

March 1991: Who Will Survive In 1991? Also: Holyfield-Douglas, Nunn-Curry, Buddy McGirt, Jess Willard, Nelson-Fenech preview.

May 1991: The Heavyweight Division: Alive And Punching. Also: Simon Brown, Marcos Villasana, Year That Was: 1964, Gene Tunney, Chavez-Taylor preview.

July 1991: Terry Norris Defeats A Legend, But Can He Become A Star? Also: Julian Jackson, Camacho-Haugen, Sugar Ray Leonard, Jack Sharkey, McCallum-Nunn preview.

Sept. 1991: It Was No Joke: Rev. George Makes Believers Of Us All. Also: Jerry Buss, Max Baer, Reggie Johnson, Riddick Bowe, Tommy Morrison, Bruce Seldon, Michael Moorer, Jake Rodriguez.

Nov. 1991: Ruddock Stood Tall, But Holyfield Will Fall: Mike Tyson Still Has What It Takes. Also: Kid Akeem, superstitions, would-be superstars, Joe Louis, Hearns-Czyz preview.

May 1992: Boxing's Four-Star Future: Toney, Bowe, Norris, And McGirt. Also: McCallum-Toney, Junior Jones, Sonny Liston, Year That Was: 1980, Chavez-McGirt preview.

July 1992: Larry "Old Folk" Holmes: A One-Fight Wonder Or A Real Title Threat? Also: Mike Tyson, Vinny Pazienza, Toney-Tiberi, Joe Frazier, McGirt-Taylor II preview.

Sept. 1992: Foreman, Get Out Now! Before You Get Seriously Hurt! Also: Greg Haugen, Gerald McClellan, Julio Cesar Chavez, Toney-Jackson, history of the heavyweights.

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July 1993: The Undisputed Bad Boy Of Boxing: James Toney Whips Iran Barkley. Also: Tony Lopez, Kostya Tszyu, Julio Cesar Chavez, The Year That Was: 1977, Roy Jones-Bernard Hopkins.

Jan. 1994: Fight Night With The Golden Boy—Oscar De La Hoya: Superstar In Training. Also: Riddick Bowe, Roberto Duran, Joe Frazier, Larry Merchant.

March 1994: Do Today's Heavyweights Stink? *Boxing 94* Analyzes The Question ... The Answer May Shock You! Also: Benn-Eubank II, trainers' secrets, Brad Jacobs, McKinney-Patterson preview.

May 1994: Roberto Duran At 100!! (Fights, Not Years) Also: Carbajal-Gonzalez II preview, Kelley-Vargas, Bruce Trampler, People's Choice Heavyweight Tournament.

July 1994: The Moorer-Holyfield War: Our Exclusive Analysis And Prediction: Also: Randall-Chavez I, Eric Holland, The Rematches, James Braddock.

Sept. 1994: Mike Tyson—336 More Days For #922335. Also: Leavander Johnson, lucky losers, Panama Lewis, Ad Wolgast, Cornelius Boza-Edwards, De La Hoya-Molina preview.

Nov. 1994: You Might Not Like This But ... Lennox Lewis Is The Best Heavyweight In The World. Also: Gerald McClellan, Frankie Randall, Roy Jones, Gabe Ruelas-Leija preview.

Dec. 1994 (84-Page Special Edition): Boxing And Wrestling Have More In Common Than You Think! Also: The 1980s: Boxing's Greatest Decade, Verno Phillips, Sergei Kobozev, Mike McCallum, Tony Galento, Michael Buffer.

March 1995: An American Love Story: Why We're Crazy About Big George. Also: Danny Romero, 32 stars of tomorrow, Vincent Pettway, Johnny Tocco, Young Stribling, Holmes-McCall preview.

May 1995: '95 Alive! The 10 Fights We'd Like To See. Also: Roy Jones, Bob Lee, Bobby Crabtree, Owen Moran, Vasquez-Whitaker preview.

July 1995: Tyson—The Five Men He Should Fight ... And The Five He Should Avoid. Also: Benn-McClellan, Holyfield-Mercer preview, Arnie Rosenthal.

Sept. 1995: Same Old Tyson. Also: Julio Cesar Chavez, Steve Johnston, One loss—career ruined, McCall-Bruno preview.

Jan. 1996: Holyfield Answers The Tough Questions. Also: Wayne McCullough, puncher vs. puncher, Paul Vaden, pay-per-view.

March 1996: Amidst The Confusion ... Bowe Stands Tall. Also: Whitaker vs. Greats, British tragedies, Tim Witherspoon, Frank Warren, Benn-Collins preview.

May 1996: Bruno's Better, Tyson's Worse ... Will It Make A Difference? Also: Arturo Gatti, Gerry Cooney, Frans Botha, Hector Camacho.

July 1996: Oscar De La Hoya vs. Julio Cesar Chavez—Exclusive Analysis & Prediction. Also: Marco Antonio Barrera, Wayne McCullough, Johnny Tapia & Sugar Ray Leonard, Kevin Kelley.

Sept. 1996: Mike Tyson—Who Can Beat Him And Why. Also: Pernell Whitaker, Bronco McKart, South African boxing, Luisito Espinosa, Pryor-Arguello I.

Nov. 1996: Oscar's Hit List. Nobody's Too Tough For "The Golden Boy." Also: Michael Moorer, Gatti-Patterson II preview, Frankie Liles, Kevin Kelley, Henry Akinwande, Archie Moore.

Jan. 1997: Scared Stiff! Seldon Wimps Out Against Tyson. Can Holyfield Reverse The Ugly Trend? Also: Lou Savarese, David Reid, Luis Rodriguez, best bodypunchers, Ali vs. the greats.

March 1997: Shout It From The Mountaintops! Mr. Good Is The New Mr. Bad! Also: Holyfield-Tyson, Lewis-McCall preview, Danny Romero, J.C. Chavez, Mike Acri, Louis-Conn I, unconventional fighters.

May 1997: Evander Holyfield—Five Questions That Must Be Answered. Also: Ray Mercer, Phillip Holiday, Tommy Brooks, Jimmy Braddock, Carmen Basilio.

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Valdivia

(Continued from page 75)

the 50th anniversary of the 1932 Olympic Games held in the City of Angels. But on the evening of the event, the moguls in charge of broadcasting it over TV insisted that high-profile announcer and sports anchorman Al Michaels handle the announcing chores. When he started, however, the fighters he introduced were not the ones in the ring, and, at the insistence of his benefactor Harris, Valdivia grabbed a microphone from the Los Angeles Police Band and broke into the telecast to correct him.

During a commercial break, Michaels called Valdivia over and said, "God, I don't know where you came from, but you're a lifesaver. Will you announce the rest of the bouts?"

Only afterward did Valdivia discover how his huge break had come about. "I found out Dub Harris had given [Michaels] the wrong cards on purpose," he says. "He set the whole thing up for me."

Along the way, Valdivia's talent has won him additional important backers. One of them was Don Fraser, matchmaker at the Olympic and Los Angeles Forum before going off to promote his own monthly cards at the Irvine Marriott. Since 1985, Valdivia has been his house announcer, and he also writes a regular column called "In This Corner" for the boxing program.

Since 1989, he has been the announcer of Top Rank on its monthly shows on the all-Spanish Telemundo cable network. In his first broadcast, Valdivia made a couple of mispronunciations in Spanish, but assistant matchmaker John Cabrera of Top Rank told him not to worry because "I told the people with Telemundo that you're from Honduras, and that's how they pronounce them there."

Now, oftentimes Valdivia tells audiences that "tonight's introductions will be given in 'Spanglish'—a little Spanish and a little English."

A full-time ring announcer, commentator, and emcee since 1992, today the former street sweeper owns five tuxedos to wear announcing bouts all over the country (including the all-female cards telecast out of Biloxi, Mississippi).

The trick to announcing a fight, says Valdivia, is "to make it exciting for the audience without getting too carried away. The most important thing you have to do is grab people's attention. I have my own style that I just came up with. The way I announce, the boxers are the most important ones. I've never tried to be flamboyant or real flashy. I'm not knocking those who are. I admire Michael Buffer. In my estimation, he's the best announcer in boxing right now. He's tall, good-looking, and he has a great voice."

Valdivia is also impressed by and friendly with Jimmy Lennon Jr., the son of his announcing idol who has smoothly stepped into his late father's patent leather shoes. "A prince of a guy," says Valdivia.

Announcing fights is only one thing for which Valdivia is known in the boxing community these days. "He's like our unofficial chaplain," says veteran referee Marty Denkin. "He goes out of his way to perform acts of kindness for people, which along with his professionalism, has made him one of the most respected and liked persons in our business."

For instance, Valdivia saved and had framed the scorecards from all the 1984 Olympic bouts he announced, and over the years has presented them to the Olympians, whose pro fights he has announced, including Evander Holyfield, Virgil Hill, and Pernell Whitaker. Robert Wangila, who represented his native Uganda in the '84 Games, was startled when Valdivia walked into his dressing room years later and said to him, "It says here you were in the 1984 Olympic Games. Do you have any proof of that?" When Wangila began to stammer, Valdivia said, "You do now," and handed him his framed Olympic scorecards.

"The guy gave me a kiss," said Valdivia.

In addition to announcing matches and emceeing events such as the World Boxing Hall of Fame's annual induction dinner, Valdivia has appeared as a ring announcer in several movies, TV shows, and commercials. That's not too shabby for a guy who didn't get into the business until he was almost 50, and couldn't land a job for almost three years.

"My life is almost like a screenplay,"

(Continued on page 79)

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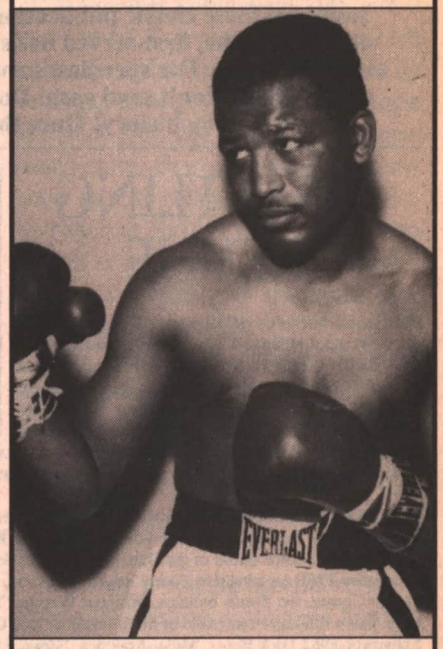

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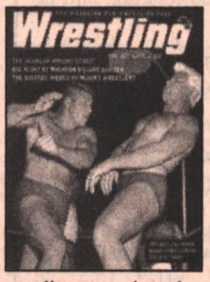
COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Wrestling historians, rejoice! Some of the back issues in this ad have not been offered for sale for more than a decade—but a recent transfer of warehouse inventory from New York to Pennsylvania uncovered a small supply of these classic publications! Obviously, supplies are extremely limited, so all magazines will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis only. Prices quoted are based on the rarity of the issue and the number of available copies. For speediest service, use VISA or MasterCard or make payment by money order or certified check. Please don't send cash! Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime chance to own a memorable piece of wrestling history! Once they're gone, they'll never be offered for sale again—so order today!

WRESTLING REVUE



Published between 1959 and 1964, *Wrestling Revue* is acknowledged as one of the finest series of wrestling magazines ever produced. These beautiful editions, all edited and published by Stanley Weston (founder of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated, The Wrestler,* and *Inside Wrestling,* among so many other titles) set a standard for all wrestling magazines that followed, and are available now for the first time in many years!

Fall 1961 Edouard Carpentier challenges Floyd Patterson, Bruiser vs. Cowboy Bob Ellis, The Zebra Kid, killer holds, action at The Kiel, Nick Bockwinkel vs. Dr. X, and full-color action of the Bastiens vs. Shires & Nelson. **$25**
December 1961 An extensive Buddy Rogers interview, Bobo Brazil, Fred Blassie, Pepper Gomez, the Torres brothers, Whipper Watson, "Sailor" Art Thomas, Ricki Starr, plus a full-color centerfold of Mark Lewin & Don Curtis. **$35**
February 1962 Dick Beyer, Mitsu Arakawa, Edouard Carpentier vs. Lou Thesz, Angelo Poffo, a five-girl battle royal, Don and Jackie Fargo, Billy Zabyszko, Larry Chene, plus a full-color centerfold of Guy & Joe Brunetti. **$30**
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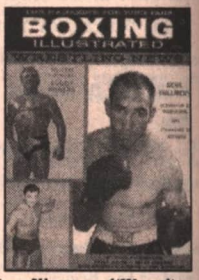
June 1962 Eddie Graham, Verne Gagne, wrestlers vs. boxers, Dory Dixon, Yukon Eric, Tony Lanza, Lorraine Johnson vs. Kay Noble, Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard, The Crusher, plus a full-color centerfold of Red Bastien. **$25**
December 1963 The Destroyer, "Maniac" Mark Lewin, Paul Diamond, Ernie Ladd, Judy Grable, Bill Watts, Pat O'Connor, Don Duffy, The Scufflin' Hillbillies, plus a full-color centerfold of Lou Thesz. **$35**
February 1964 Edouard Carpentier vs. Killer Kowalski, Florida wrestling, Mad Dog Vachon, Fabulous Moolah, Fritz Von Erich, Rene Goulet, Cyclops, plus a full-color centerfold of Bruno Sammartino. **$35**

BOXING ILLUSTRATED/ WRESTLING NEWS



In November 1958, Stanley Weston launched *Boxing Illustrated/Wrestling News,* an innovative concept in sports magazines. Each issue's content consisted of approximately 60 percent boxing and 40 percent wrestling, resulting in the most complete magazine for ring afficianados the world has ever known.

May 1959 ***Boxing:*** Ray Robinson, James Jeffries, Rube Vargas, Willie Pep, Joey Maxim, Denny Moyer. ***Wrestling:*** Gene Stanlee, Larry Hamilton, Happy Humphrey, "Cowboy" Bob Ellis. **$25**
June 1959 ***Boxing:*** Gene Fullmer, Jack Britton, Gustav Scholz, Mauro Vazquez, Rocky Graziano. ***Wrestling:*** Buddy Rogers, Don Leo Jonathan, Hard Boiled Haggerty, Omaya Kato. **$35**
September 1959 ***Boxing:*** Carmen Basilio, the perfect kayo, Tiger Flowers, Joe Brown, Paolo Rosi. ***Wrestling:*** Edouard Carpentier, Ricki Starr, Enrique Torres. **$25**
October 1962 ***Boxing:*** Special edition previewing the Floyd Patterson vs. Sonny Liston bout! ***Wrestling:*** "Handsome" Johnny Barend, Andre Drapp, "Sailor" Art Thomas, five pages of results. **$30**
October 1963 ***Boxing:*** Cassius Clay, Joe Lynch, Frankie Narvaez, Tommy Loughran. ***Wrestling:*** Crusher vs. Verne Gagne, Tony Manous, The Dirty Daltons, results. **$25**
February 1964 ***Boxing:*** Sonny Liston, Joey Archer, 1963 in review, Cassius Clay. ***Wrestling:*** Bruno Sammartino vs. Gorilla Monsoon, Emile Dupre, Bruiser vs. Bob Ellis, results. **$30**

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

WRESTLING REVUE

- ☐ Fall 1961
- ☐ December 1961
- ☐ February 1962
- ☐ April 1962
- ☐ June 1962
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Valdivia

(Continued from page 77)

says Valdivia. But, as old Ms. Tompkins would probably say, for the one-time street sweeper to achieve success with his pipes was always in the cards—even before Dub Harris got a hold of them. ■

Pete Ehrmann is a freelance writer based in West Allis, Wisconsin, and a regular contributor to this magazine.

New Faces

(Continued from page 54)

well. I don't think he has a timetable right now; he's a raw, green kid. I'm teaching a lot of basic boxing skills and fundamentals. He has a ton of physical ability. I hope Duncan doesn't get pushed too fast before I get a chance to teach him everything he has to know.

"He could be heavyweight champion of the world. He has the ability and quality to be champion of the world. We're looking to make a push in about two years. By then, I feel he'll be ready.

Former heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe was at ringside for the Kenneth fight and came away impressed.

"I think he has a lot of potential," Bowe said. "He certainly has a lot of size, and a good jab. He reminds me of a younger version of myself."

Harold Lederman, HBO's unofficial official, just shook his head after watching Dokiwari, and said, "Oh, I think he can fight. He still needs some polishing, but he's big, athletic, and he has a big right hand. You always have to watch those Nigerian heavyweights. They're powerful."

Dokiwari's athletic background comes from soccer, a sport that rarely segues athletes into boxing. Soccer in Nigeria is like basketball and football are in the United States; every kid plays it while growing up. In Nigeria, soccer can be very physical. Ironically, it was on a soccer field when Julius Kodei, a boxing coach who fought for the Nigerian National Team, first saw the then 18-year-old Dokiwari and was impressed with his agility. Kodei invited Dokiwari to his gym and handed him a pair of gloves. Dokiwari ran home, tried the gloves on, and shadow boxed in front of a mirror. He liked how he looked.

What Dokiwari received next was a crash course in boxing—literally. Because of his formidable size, Dokiwari was sent in against more seasoned fighters, and his relative inexperience showed. He'd often come home battered, which prompted his mother to discourage him from continuing.

"I learned through the hard way, it made me tough and motivated me to keep going," Dokiwari recalled. "Initially, I wanted to just give boxing a try. I didn't think about turning professional. I was getting beat up by the older guys in the gym. But I came to love it. I became the first one in the gym and the last one to leave. Before you know it, the trainers started paying more attention to me. All my trainers have been very good to me. I grew up fighting. It's tough to grow up in the streets of Nigeria, people want to beat you up, they want to take the things you have. You have to learn to fight for yourself. Everyone in my family is big, but if someone was going to hit one of my brothers, they'd have to deal with me."

As an amateur, Dokiwari compiled a 55-5 record, with 46 knockouts. He fought as a super heavyweight for Nigeria at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, winning a bronze medal after losing a 7-6 decision to silver-medalist Paea Wolfgramm in the quarterfinals. Dokiwari felt robbed by the outcome. He had cracked Wolfgramm's ribs and broken his nose, and was baffled when Wolfgramm won by a point.

"Duncan took the Olympic loss very hard," said Leonard Bennett, co-manager of Dokiwari. "It was devastating to him. For about a month after the Olympics, he sulked. He just couldn't see the fairness of it all. After that, he said he wants to leave no doubt about a decision when he leaves the ring. He wants to leave guys on their back."

The foundation of Dokiwari's awesome build, Bennett said, came from carrying cases of soda pop and rice bags on his head to the market. As a 13-year-old, Dokiwari would routinely lug 60-70 pounds for six or seven miles. His mother would entrust him to sell the goods to supplement their family's limited income.

Dokiwari, who is considered a national treasure in Nigeria, is motivated by his mother, Oiusoso West-Dokiwari. He saw the toil she went through in raising eight children by herself. A big reason why he turned pro was to earn enough money to support her.

"My mother raised eight kids, and it wasn't easy," Dokiwari said. "When I left high school, I decided that I had to do something to help my family. I did some odd labor jobs, dug trenches, had some painting jobs. Everyone before me in my family went to college. I wanted to be in the Nigerian Navy. I didn't want to go through as a private. I took the officer's test, and was waiting for the results back when I started boxing.

"My mom is everything to me," Dokiwari continued. "She raised us herself when things were tough. I give her all the credit. Whatever I do, I do for my mom, and for people that are less fortunate than me. When I win, it's like a victory for everyone."

Dokiwari is reaping benefits he never experienced before, so to keep himself humble, he reminds himself of the hardships he endured growing up by sleeping on the floor. It makes him hard, he says, and focused on what his goals are in boxing.

"I want to make things tough for myself, so I prefer lying on the floor," Dokiwari said. "I became used to it. When I go to training camps, I sleep on the floor. Sleeping on the floor is not easy, believe me. It gets cold. But it lines my bones up perfectly. Some people think I'm crazy, but I tell them I just like to do it. What concerns me is that I have to think of myself and I have to like what I'm doing."

Dokiwari is willing to take his time getting to the top of his profession. In fact, Dokiwari's nickname is "Time," something his mom tagged him with.

"When I started, I had five losses early in my [amatuer] career," said Dokiwari, who can speak four different languages. "My mother, believe it or not, was the one that kept saying that my 'time will come.' She came around to realizing that this is what I wanted. I wanted to box and she didn't like seeing me get beat up all of the time. I wasn't very good in the beginning. After a while, she encouraged me. She said, 'If this is what you want to do, then be the best.'" ■

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Boxing Collector's Notebook

By Don Scott

There's still plenty of time to make plans to join collectors, fans, and fighters at the International Boxing Hall of Fame weekend in Canastota, New York, June 11 thru 14. If you're looking for some material relating to the latest Hall of Fame inductees, here's what to expect.

Matthew Saad Muhammad: Not a tough autograph except in his old name, Matthew Franklin, but some say he will sign that way if you ask him. Still a good name to get in either form. The programs for his fights with Eddie Mustafa Muhammad and Yaqui Lopez can be found, and you may see them at the IBHOF collectors' show. These are classic fights and classic programs. Pay $30-$60 for them.

Miguel Canto and **Antonio Cervantes:** Just get a photo and get it signed. Both are very tough autographs. You won't find much on these guys. Fighters from outside the U.S. rarely generate any memorabilia that gets back to the States, and neither of these guys generated much when they were here. It's a pity because they're both true Hall of Famers.

Lou Duva: A pretty easy autograph, but try to get him to sign along with any fighter he brings with him. Managers and promoters aren't heavily collected. A great program to get is the one from Madison Square Garden when Duva's Olympians, including Evander Holyfield, Meldrick Taylor, and Pernell Whitaker, all turned pro on November 15, 1984. Many were printed, so it's relatively easy to find.

Now for those who have heard the final bell and won't be in Canastota for the induction ceremony.

Sammy Angott: There are quite a few programs floating about from Angott's career, and I see the ticket from his fight with Davey Day a lot. Angott's signature is not rare and a signed photo goes for $30-$40. You can also find some boxing cards of Angott, especially the Leaf and exhibit cards.

William Brady and **Herman Taylor:** I see letters of Brady's from time to time, but they're not a popular collecting item. There's nothing on Taylor. Photos of both men would be hard to find, but are not highly prized. Like I said, not many managers or promoters or other non-participants get collected.

Joe Choynski: Okay, first, let's get the name right. It is pronounced Ko-in-skee, but I have seen it spelled ending in "ii" and "ia." Like Tom Sharkey, Choynski fought them all but was never champion. There are a few letters and signed photos of Choynski, but no programs or tickets. You can find antique photos, ranging from $40 to $70. There may be some old pre-1920 cards found. Look for Old Judge, Mayo, or Gypsy Queen cards from before 1900.

Mike Donovan: Here's a bar-bet stumper: What family has Hall of Famers in three successive generations, father, son, and grandson? Answer: Mike Donovan (this year's inductee), son Art Donovan (the ref, inducted a few years back), and Art Donovan Jr. (who is in the Pro Football Hall of Fame).

The New York Athletic Club held a testimonial for Donovan in 1914, and there's a program from that event. Donovan used to spar with Theodore Roosevelt at the White House, and wrote a book about his relationship with the President, entitled *The Roosevelt I Knew*, which can also be found. Donovan was himself a collector, and owned large photos of his friends and sparmates. In 1910, he loaned them to a cigarette manufacturer, who made the T220 cigarette cards (Mecca and Hassans).

Frankie Genaro: His autograph is still around, but I never see much else.

Benny Lynch: I rarely see anything on him. Like Genaro, Lynch was a guy who was valued in his day (especially in his native Scotland), but few programs, tickets, or posters have survived.

Kid Lavigne: There aren't too many signatures around these days, but I know of at least three handwritten letters, and I have one from before 1900. Lavigne was in the Mayo Cut Plug card set, along with some other card sets early in the century. There are also some antique photos to be found.

Of course, the boxing collectible show on Hall of Fame weekend will have lots and lots of memorabilia besides material relating to this year's inductees. But it's always nice to get something on the careers of those being honored, particularly those still alive, who will be on hand for the festivities and available for autographs. ■

Don Scott is editor and publisher of ***Boxing Collector's News*** *and can be reached through his web page at www.boxingcollectors.com or at 3316 Luallen Drive, Carrollton, TX 75007. His mailbox fills up pretty quickly, so send a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want a quick response.*

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by The Ring are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were complied as of January 1998, the WBC as of December 1997, and the IBF as of February 1998.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	C
Zeljko Mavrovic (CROA)	1	2	7
Ray Mercer (USA)	2	3	4
John Ruiz (USA)	3	7	–
David Tua (NZ)	4	–	–
Oliver McCall (USA)	5	–	–
Andrew Golota (POL)	6	–	–
Larry Donald (USA)	7	–	12
Buster Douglas (USA)	8	–	–
Jerry Ballard (USA)	9	12	10
Shannon Briggs (USA)	10	–	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	–	1	5
Jade Scott (USA)	28	4	–
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	–	5	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	16	6	6
Orlin Norris (USA)	–	8	–
Michael Grant (USA)	20	9	–
Francois Botha (SA)	15	10	2
Vaughn Bean (USA)	–	–	1
Hasim Rahman (USA)	26	–	3
Obed Sullivan (USA)	–	–	8
Chris Byrd (USA)	17	–	9

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	C	–	–
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	–	C	–
Imamu Mayfield (USA)	–	–	C
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	1	2	–
Johnny Nelson (GB)	2	–	–
Terry Dunstan (GB)	3	4	11
Jacob Mofokeng (SA)	4	11	3
Montell Griffin (USA)	5	–	–
Alexei Ilin (RUS)	6	–	–
Yosukezan Nishijima (JAP)	7	–	–
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	8	–	–
Dale Brown (CAN)	9	–	–
Arthur Williams (USA)	10	5	1
Ezequiel Paixao (BRA)	–	1	–
Nate Miller (USA)	13	3	6
Tiwon Taylor (USA)	29	6	10
Ken Murphy (USA)	–	7	4
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	–	8	–
Adopho Washington (USA)	–	9	–
Darren Corbett (IRE)	14	10	12
Vacant	–	–	2
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	5
Faustino Gonzalez (COL)	–	–	7
Juan Gomez (CUB)	–	–	8
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	–	9

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Roy Jones (USA)	C	–	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	–	C	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Michael Nunn (USA)	1	7	–
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	2	–	5
Richard Frazier (USA)	3	4	6
Merqui Sosa (DR)	4	6	–
Muhammad Siluvangi (ZAI)	5	3	12
Ole Klemetsen (NOR)	6	8	8
Hisashi Teraji (JAP)	7	–	–
Fabian Chancelay (ARG)	8	–	–
Mark Prince (GB)	9	–	–
Chris Eubank (GB)	10	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	1	7
Dario Matteoni (ARG)	14	2	–
Richard Hall (USA)	25	5	4
Anthony Bigeni (AUS)	–	9	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Will Taylor (USA)	24	–	3
Yosukezan Nishijima (JAP)	–	–	9
David Telesco (USA)	–	–	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Thulane Malinga (SA)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	–	–	C
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	1	–	–
Robin Reid (GB)	2	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	3	10	–
Herol Graham (GB)	4	3	10
Dean Francis (GB)	5	–	–
Roberto Duran (PAN)	6	–	–
Eric Lucas (CAN)	7	9	–
Thomas Tate (USA)	8	6	5
Richie Woodhall (GB)	9	–	–
Mads Larsen (DEN)	10	–	–
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	–	1	4
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	14	2	3
Bruno Girard (FRA)	21	4	–
Francis Dean (GB)	–	5	–
Antoine Byrd (USA)	13	7	–
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	–	8	7
Antoine Byrd (USA)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Joseph Kiwanuka (UGA)	16	–	6
Reginaldo Andrade (BRA)	18	–	8
Byron Mitchell (USA)	29	11	9

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Holmes (USA)	C	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	11	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	1	–	–
Stephane Ouelette (CAN)	2	12	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	3	–	4
Julio Cesar Vazquez (ARG)	4	–	–
Kevin Palmer (USA)	5	–	–
Robert Allen (USA)	6	2	1
Brian Barbosa (USA)	7	6	12
Alex Zaitzev (RUS)	8	–	–
Urbano Gurrola (MEX)	9	–	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	10	8	–
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	–	1	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	3	10
Julio Cesar Green (DR)	–	4	8
Anthony Andrews (GUY)	18	5	–
Giovanni Pretorius (SA)	–	7	5
Abdula Ramadan (CAN)	–	9	3
Roberto Duran (PAN)	–	10	–
Antoine Echols (USA)	14	–	2
Ken Ellis (USA)	–	–	6
Dan Trevino (USA)	–	–	7
Urbano Gurrola (MEX)	–	–	9

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Mullings (USA)	C	–	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	–	C	–
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	–	C
Davide Ciarlante (ITA)	1	2	–
Ahmed Dottuev (BALK)	2	11	–
Terry Norris (USA)	3	–	8
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	4	–	–
Tony Marshall (USA)	5	5	–
Robert West (USA)	6	–	–
Earnie Artango (AUSTRL)	7	–	6
Raul Marquez (USA)	8	–	7
Kookyui Song (KOR)	9	–	–
Nick Rupa (USA)	10	–	–
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	12	1	–
Kevin Kelly (USA)	22	3	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	–	4	–
Tony Menefee (USA)	–	6	–
Pedro Ortega (MEX)	–	7	10
Jason Papillion (USA)	21	8	3
Andrew Murray (GUY)	–	9	5
Mamadou Thiam (FRA)	20	10	–
Anthony Stephens (USA)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Aaron Davis (USA)	–	–	4
Sergio Luciano (BRA)	–	–	9

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Patrick Charpentier (FRA)	1	8	7
Derrell Coley (USA)	2	6	6
Andrei Pestryaev (RUS)	3	–	–
Ariel Chaves (ARG)	4	–	–
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	5	–	–
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	6	–	–
Maxim Nesterenko (RUS)	7	–	–
Shannan Taylor (AUSTRL)	8	10	12
Vernon Forrest (USA)	9	–	5
Suk Hyun Yun (KOR)	10	–	–
Vacant	–	1	–
Andrei Pestraiev (RUS)	–	2	–
Jose Luis Lopez (MEX)	–	3	–
Oba Carr (USA)	–	4	11
Juan Negron (PR)	24	5	–
Jeff Malcolm (AUSTRL)	–	7	–
Michele Piccirillo (ITA)	11	9	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	1
Mahenge Zulu (ZAI)	–	–	2
Hugo Pineda (COL)	–	–	3
Raul Frank (USA)	–	–	4

Juan Negron (PR)	–	–	8
Walter Saporiti (ARG)	–	–	9
Adrian Stone (GB)	–	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Vacant	**C**	**–**	**1**
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Vince Phillips (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	1	3	–
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	2	4	–
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	3	2	6
Rafael Ruelas (MEX)	4	–	–
Reggie Green (USA)	5	7	9
Diobelis Hurtado (CUB)	6	–	–
Soren Sondergaard (DEN)	7	–	–
Jong Hoon Yuh (KOR)	8	–	–
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	9	1	2
Ricardo Silva (ARG)	10	–	–
Virgil McClendon (USA)	–	5	3
Freddy Rojas (CHILE)	26	6	4
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	–	8	–
Elio Ortiz (VEN)	–	9	–
Guillermo Mosquera (COL)	–	10	–
Terron Millett (USA)	–	–	5
Jan Bergman (SA)	14	12	7
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	–	–	8
Alex Carillo (COL)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Steve Johnston (USA)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Orzubek Nazarov (JAP)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Shane Mosley (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	1	–	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	2	–	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	3	–	–
Daomai Sithkodam (THAI)	4	–	–
Jong Kwon Baek (KOR)	5	–	–
Billy Schwer (GB)	6	3	12
Marco Rudolph (GER)	7	–	–
David Dodi Tetteh (GHA)	8	–	11
Eduardo Morales (ARG)	9	2	1
George Scott (LIB)	10	–	–
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	–	1	–
Ceppy Holman (INDO)	–	4	–
Fred Ladd (USA)	–	5	6
Israel Cardona (USA)	16	6	2
Leavander Johnson (USA)	–	7	4
Phillip Holiday (SA)	11	8	5
Colin Dunne (GB)	30	9	–
Rick Yoshimura (JAP)	17	10	–
Justin Rowsell (AUSTRL)	–	–	3
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	–	7
Demetrius Ceballos (USA)	–	–	8
Luis Flores (COL)	–	–	9
Acelino Freitas (BRA)	14	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Vacant	**–**	**–**	**C**
Robert Garcia (USA)	1	6	1
Jesus Chavez (USA)	2	–	–
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	3	7	–
Djamel Lifa (FRA)	4	4	–
Justin Juuko (UGA)	5	–	–
Sirimongkol Singmanassuk (THAI)	6	–	–
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	7	–	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	8	5	4
Carlos Gerena (PR)	9	–	–
Yamato Mitani (JAP)	10	–	–
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	–	1	–
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	2	–
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	–	3	–
Harold Warren (USA)	19	8	2
Santos Rebolledo (VEN)	–	9	–
Edson Xuxa Nacimento (BRA)	–	10	–
Jaime Rangel (COL)	–	–	3
Ramon Ledon (CUBA)	–	–	5
Tracy Patterson (USA)	–	–	6
Joel Casamayor (CUB)	18	–	7
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	17	–	8
Tsutoma Yasuda (JAP)	–	–	9
Moises Pedroza (COL)	–	–	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lalsito Espinosa (PHIL)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Wilfredo Vazquez (PR)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Cesar Soto (MEX)	1	–	10
Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)	2	–	–
Paul Ingle (GB)	3	–	–
Drumane Nabaloun (BKF)	4	–	9
Manuel Medina (MEX)	5	–	–
Carlos Rios (ARG)	6	10	–
Pablo Chacon (ARG)	7	12	–
Mehdi Labdouni (FRA)	8	–	–
Takeo Imaoka (JAP)	9	–	–
Fred Norwood (USA)	10	2	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	1	–
Genaro Rios (NIC)	–	3	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	–	4	4
Frederic Perez (FRA)	–	5	–
Angel Vasquez (PR)	23	6	2
Victor Polo (COL)	–	7	1
Chamopekt Chorchamuang (THAI)	–	8	–
Guty Espadas (MEX)	–	9	–
David Santos (USA)	27	–	3
Jesus Chavez (USA)	–	–	5
Tony Wehbee (AUS)	22	–	6
Welcome Ncita (SA)	–	–	7
Teofilo Carranza (PER)	–	–	8

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Erik Morales (MEX)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Vacant	**–**	**C**	**–**
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	1	–	–
Reynante Jamili (PHIL)	2	–	7
Spencer Oliver (GB)	3	5	3
Michael Brodie (GB)	4	–	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	5	–	–
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	6	–	–
Guty Espadas (MEX)	7	–	–
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	8	4	–
Yonghoon Lee (KOR)	9	–	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	10	–	–
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	1	–
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	–	2	–
Carlos Barreto (VEN)	–	3	–
Bugiarso (INDO)	–	6	–
Serge Poilblan (FRA)	14	7	–
John Johnson (USA)	–	8	5
Victor Llerena (COL)	–	9	1
Bong Chul Kim (KOR)	11	10	–
Harold Mestre (COL)	–	–	2
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	4
Anell Barotillo (AUSTRL)	–	–	6
Ariston Clayton (USA)	22	–	8
Esteban Morales (COL)	–	–	9
Ernesto Gray (COL)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Nana Konadu (GHA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Tim Austin (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Paul Ayala (USA)	1	3	–
Jorge Monsalvo (COL)	2	–	–
Adan Vargas (MEX)	3	–	7
Jose Rafael Sosa (ARG)	4	–	–
Danny Romero (USA)	5	–	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	6	–	5
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	7	–	–
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	8	12	–
In Jin Chi (KOR)	9	–	–
Masahiko Nakamura (JAP)	10	–	–
Abraham Torres (VEN)	–	1	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	2	–
Daorung C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	4	–
Jose Rojas (VEN)	–	5	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	6	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	12	7	–
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	11	8	–
Sahoiu Phaisarn Gym (THA)	–	9	–
Johnny Armour (GB)	22	10	–
Adrian Kaspari (INDO)	–	–	1
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	2
Jesus Perez (COL)	20	–	3
Juan Sanchez (COL)	–	–	4
Alberto Ikeda (JAP)	–	–	6
Oscar Garro (ARG)	14	–	8
Cesar Singo (ECU)	–	–	9
Willy Perdomo (DR)	–	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Johnny Tapia (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	1	7	–
Luis Bolanos (COL)	2	–	–
Veeraphol Sahaprom (THAI)	3	4	–
Luis Benavides (COL)	4	–	–
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	5	–	–
Raffy Montalban (PHIL)	6	–	–
Hipolito Saucedo (USA)	7	–	–
Adonis Cruz (NIC)	8	–	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	9	11	–
Victor Godoy (ARG)	10	–	–
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	30	1	4
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	2	–
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	–	3	–
Evangelo Perez (PAN)	–	5	12
Felix Machado (VEN)	28	6	–
Takato Toguchi (JAP)	–	8	–
Edicson Torres (VEN)	–	9	–
Raffy Montalban (PHIL)	–	10	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	1
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	2
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	12	12	3
Sombak Singchawan (THAI)	–	–	5
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	6
Jaji Sibali (SA)	–	–	7
Solo Ikeda (JAP)	–	–	8
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	–	–	9
Joel Luna (MEX)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Mark Johnson (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	1	–	–
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	2	3	7
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	3	–	–
Raul Juarez (MEX)	4	–	–
Arthur Johnson (USA)	5	4	1
David Guerault (FRA)	6	9	10
Manny Pacquiao (PHIL)	7	7	12
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	8	–	8
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	9	–	–
Oscar Arciniega (MEX)	10	–	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	1	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	2	–
Denkaosaen Kaowitch (THAI)	–	5	–
Will Grigsby (USA)	18	6	5
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	8	3
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	–	10	–
Takato Toguchi (JAP)	–	–	2
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	4
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	6
Ilido Julio (COL)	21	–	9

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	1	–	12
Yosam Choi (KOR)	2	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	3	2	2
Kaaj Chartbandi (THAI)	4	–	–
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	5	6	–
Phanieng Sasiprabha (THAI)	6	–	–
Gabriel Munoz (MEX)	7	–	–
Edgar Cardenas (MEX)	8	–	–
Sangik Yang (KOR)	9	–	–
Sandre Oviedo (ARG)	10	–	–
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	–	1	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	3	7
Suzuki Kabato (JAP)	–	4	–
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	13	5	–
Hidenobu Honda (JAP)	12	7	10
Nelson Dieppa (DR)	–	8	–
Oswaldo Guerrero (MEX)	–	9	3
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	18	10	–
Anis Roga (INDO)	–	–	1
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	4
Nelson Dieppa (PR)	–	–	5
Gill Ikeda (JAP)	–	–	6
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	–	–	8
Hernan Berrio (COL)	–	–	9

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Zolani Lapeteld (SA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Rocky Lin (JAP)	1	1	–
Payak Nakornluang (THAI)	2	8	–
Carmelo Caceres (PHIL)	3	–	7
Lindi Memani (SA)	4	12	–
Mongol Charoen (THAI)	5	–	12
Domingo Guillen (DR)	6	–	10
Ratanapol Sow Voraphin (THAI)	7	–	4
Myung Sup Park (KOR)	8	–	–
Sang Chul Lee (KOR)	9	–	–
Lee Sandoval (NIC)	10	11	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	2	–
Ronnie Magramo (PHIL)	–	3	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	4	–
Satoru Abe (JAP)	–	5	–
Randy Mangubat (PHIL)	–	6	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	7	–
Wondee Charoen (THAI)	–	9	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	–	10	–
Luis Lazarte (ARG)	–	–	1
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	–	–	2
Faisol Akbar (INDO)	27	–	3
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	–	–	5
Juan Herrera (COL)	–	–	6
Boy Ikeda (JAP)	–	–	8
Daniel Reyes (COL)	19	–	9

CLASSIC

JACK McAULIFFE:

"NAPOLEON OF THE RING"

From THE RING, January 1938

By Nat Fleischer

(Editor's note: This is a condensed version)

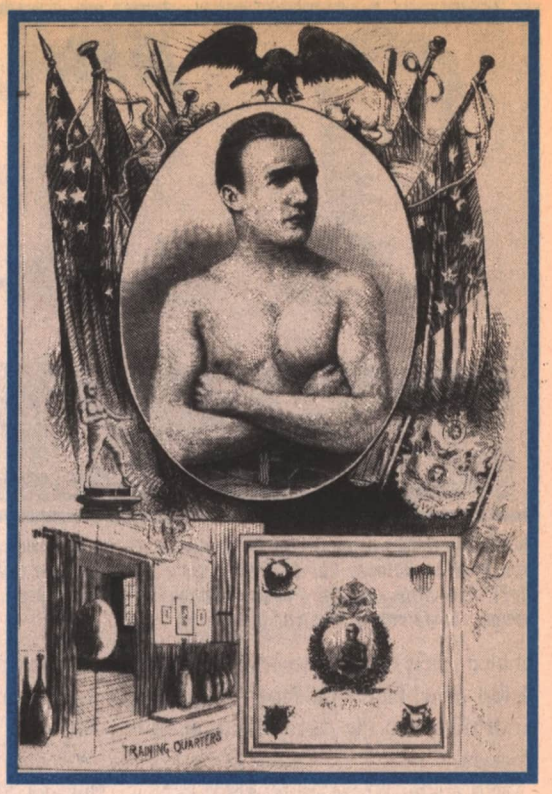
To the current generation of boxing enthusiasts, the name Jack McAuliffe, who died a few weeks ago, is almost legendary. The figure is a glamorous one. But the dates of the one-time lightweight champion's feats are so far removed from 1937 that they seem more part of a fistic saga woven from colorful threads of romance than the actual achievements of a man who was alive and able to tell about them.

Jack McAuliffe was champion of the lightweights from 1886 to 1894, when he retired. McAuliffe had the proud and amazing distinction of quitting the game as the undefeated titleholder. Others have tried to emulate him. But their judgment as to when they were through as leaders was not upheld by results. The pitcher always goes to the well once too often. But McAuliffe knew when to quit.

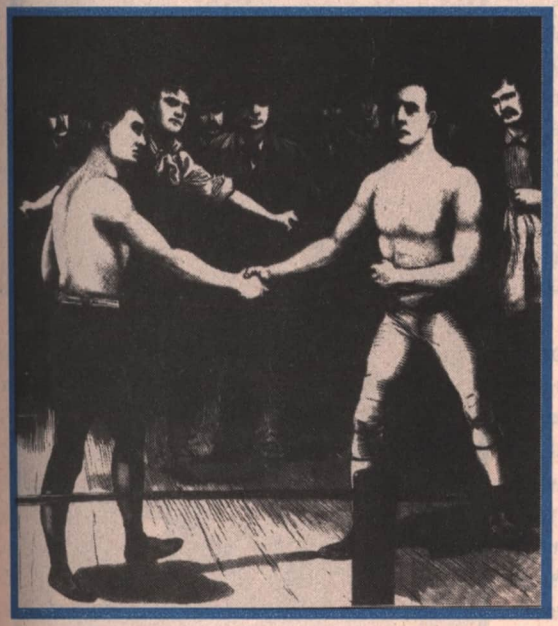
McAuliffe stands out in American fistic history as one of "The Three Great Jacks." Before McAuliffe, we had Jack Dempsey, "The Nonpareil," who preceded McAuliffe as lightweight champion. Many years in the wake of McAuliffe came the third of the Jacks—"The Great Dempsey," heavyweight champion until dethroned by Gene Tunney.

Nonpareil Jack and the later Dempsey both hoped to follow the example of McAuliffe and retire unbeaten. But boxing history stresses for us the fact that the drama of this matchless feat escaped both of the Dempseys, as it escaped so many other great fighters, and remained until his death, the cherished treasure of Jack McAuliffe, once called "The Napoleon Of The Ring."

If you were to inquire from the present generation of fight followers who was the best lightweight in the history of the American prize ring, I have no doubt that 90 percent of those queried would answer, "Joe Gans," or they might give the honor to Benny Leonard. Not because they saw either in action and could therefore judge their abilities as compared with those of other celebrities, but because so much has been said and written about the Baltimore Negro's prowess and Leonard's skill that their names stand uppermost in the minds of sports critics.



McAuliffe won the vacant lightweight title in 1886 with a 21-round knockout of Billy Frazier. McAuliffe successfully defended the title six times. The last title defense came against Billy Myers, a 15-round kayo in 1892 at the famous Carnival of Champions in New Orleans.



McAuliffe defended the title for the third time in a highly disputed match with British champ Jem Carney. After 74 rounds, the bout was declared a draw to stop the unruly behavior of fans. When McAuliffe was knocked down in the 70th and 74th rounds, the champion's backers interfered both times to save their man.

Out on the Pacific Coast, they swear by Jimmy Britt, a clever, splendid lightweight; down in the section around New Orleans they say there never was a fighter in that division the equal of Andy Bowen, who fought 110 rounds with Jack Burke, and later was killed in a ring encounter by George Lavigne. But when a final choice is made on technique, hitting power, courageousness, and defensive tactics, the name of Jack McAuliffe compares favorably with the greatest.

He fought in the days when padded gloves were a rarity, when 10 and 15 rounds were practically unheard of and finish bouts, 45 rounds or more, were the order of the day. In his day, a champion was truly a monarch. His honors were unlimited. The populace regarded him as a superman. Nothing was too good for a titleholder in those days—the romantic era of the roped square.

McAuliffe, like John L. Sullivan, was a hero extraordinary. His admirers were legion. They were with him through thick and thin. With them, McAuliffe was the greatest fighter of his era, and to speak ill of him meant war.

He fought with the skin-tight gloves on the turf, on the beach, in the barns, in cellars, in palatial clubhouses, and in the back rooms of saloons. And wherever he performed, the result of his fights were eagerly awaited by his staunch supporters. He fought for medals and silver cups, for money and just for the fun of it, and not once during his long career as an amateur and a professional did he come away a defeated gladiator.

True, on a number of occasions, as in the battles with Jem Carney and Young Griffo, he had close calls, but when McAuliffe hung up his gloves to follow a theatrical career, he left behind him an

Bill Dacey (left) was easy prey for McAuliffe, losing by 11th-round knockout on October 10, 1888, almost a year after the Carney fight. McAuliffe won The Police Gazette diamond-studded lightweight championship belt with the victory.

unblemished record. On occasions when defeat stared him in the face, his ring generalship saved the day for him and his backers.

No matter where he fought, his New York followers wagered heavily on the outcome. It is said by those who knew McAuliffe during his prime that never in the history of the American ring was there a fighter on whose chances so much dough was wagered. Every time McAuliffe went into ring combat, Dick Roche, famous sportsman and father of the present Billy Roche of referee fame, bet from $10,000 to $25,000 on McAuliffe!

In the West, down South, in the North, or around New York, his home, no matter where the contests were staged, McAuliffe was the choice of Roche and those who followed Roche's hot tips, and not once did any of his loyal followers lose a dime on him. That's why McAuliffe was so popular with the sportsmen of his day.

Sullivan was a more popular fighter, but his popularity was of a different kind from that which McAuliffe enjoyed. Sullivan would enter a saloon, look at the crowd around the bar, then toss down a $100 note and order drinks for the house. That kind of going would make anybody popular with those kind of people. But when John L. was put in among a lot of swells, he was much out of place. Not so, however, with McAuliffe. It was at the leading hotels along Broadway that he made his greatest hit.

In the heyday of the Dwyer brothers' success—Phil and Mike—when they were sweeping everything before them on the race tracks around New York with their formidable, almost invincible stable, McAuliffe was on the inside and reaped a fortune by stringing along with the Dwyers, his pals.

McAuliffe would bet more money on one race than Sullivan and all of the rest of the fighters combined, and anytime McAuliffe had a good afternoon at the track, he spent most of his winnings, if not all, on opening the champagne for the boys at the Broadway sporting centers or tossing his coin to the human derelicts who swarmed around him every time he made an appearance on the Gay White Way. In that respect, he closely followed his idol, Sullivan.

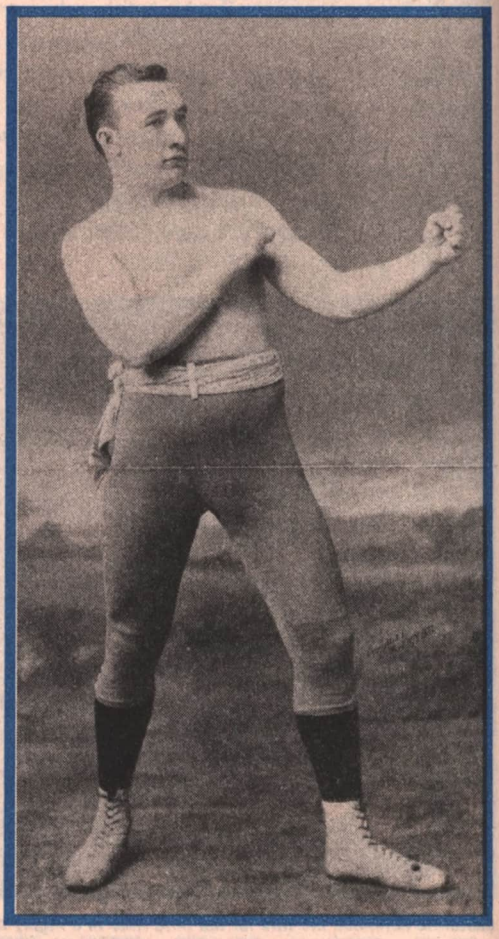
"The Boston Strong Boy" enjoyed the popularity of the short-haired fraternity; Nonpareil Jack Dempsey enjoyed that of a staid and calculating business man; while Jack McAuliffe, the third member of that great American trio, was the hero of the plunger, the actor, and the man about town. It is therefore difficult to determine who, among the trio, was the most popular of The Three Famed Jacks, as they belonged to a different set of surroundings and none seemed to associate with the same companions. This, in view of the fact that at least in the case of Dempsey, he and McAuliffe were bosom friends, seems extremely strange.

In Brooklyn, they worked together in the same cooper shop and in all of McAuliffe's important fights, Dempsey was his chief second, and McAuliffe, in turn, was in the Nonpareil's corner the night when Dempsey was badly whipped by Bob Fitzsimmons and lost the middleweight title in New Orleans.

Strange, also, is the fact that even Dempsey didn't like to have McAuliffe as his second. He was regarded by the fistic element as a "Hoodoo," because every time he appeared in a fighter's corner, that scrapper lost the battle. McAuliffe owned the unique distinction of having been the chief of staff in the corner of three world champions, each of whom was shorn of his crown. He was behind Cal McCarthy at Troy when George Dixon beat him; Dempsey when Fitzsimmons slaughtered him; and he was the chief second to John L. Sullivan when Jim Corbett whipped him in 1892.

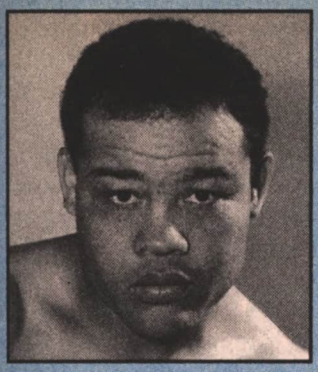
I was collaborating with him on the story of his life, which I informed him I would put in book form. Unfortunately, poor McAuliffe was too ill to express his thoughts as he could have just a few years back. His mind was still active, though his memory faltered. He recalled enough to give me many hours of intense pleasure in the recitals of his experiences.

Rings pitched stealthily in the dead of night; rich idlers, sons of aristocracy of little Old New York and staid New England centering on the rendezvous from various



No boxer in the "Good Old Days" of boxing may have been wagered on more than McAuliffe, whose friend and adviser, Dick Roche, routinely placed anywhere between $10,000 and $25,000 on him.

THE RING RATINGS, January 1938



Joe Louis

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Louis
1. Max Schmeling
2. Tommy Farr
3. Bob Pastor
4. Alberto Lovell
5. Maxie Rosenbloom
6. Nathan Mann
7. Tony Galento
8. Isadore Gastanaga
9. Roscoe Toles
10. Arturo Godoy

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: John Henry Lewis
1. Tiger Jack Fox
2. Al Gainer
3. Jock McAvoy
4. George Black
5. Eddie Wenstob
6. Ray Actis
7. Ralph DeJohn
8. Gus Lesnevich
9. Jack Gibbons
10. Melio Bettina

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Freddy Steele
1. Fred Apostoli
2. Billy Conn
3. Teddy Yarosz
4. Marcel Thil
5. Young Corbett
6. Al Hostak
7. Ben Brown
8. Lou Brouillard
9. Ken Overlin
10. Walter Woods

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Barney Ross
1. Ceferino Garcia
2. Jack Carroll
3. Gustave Eder
4. Saverio Turiello
5. Izzy Jannazzo
6. Holman Williams
7. Cocoa Kidd
8. Jimmy Leto
9. Fritzie Zivic
10. Sonny Jones

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Lou Ambers
1. Pedro Montanez
2. Billy Beauhuld
3. Davey Day
4. Wesley Ramey
5. Eddie Cool
6. Johnny Bellus
7. Paul Junior
8. Norment Quarles
9. Frankie Wallace
10. Eddie McGeever

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Henry Armstrong
1. Petey Sarron
2. Freddy Miller
3. Young Rightmire
4. Leo Rodak
5. Jackie Wilson
6. Tony Chavez
7. Ginger Foran
8. Johnny Cusick
9. Kid Chocolate
10. Bernie Friedkin

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Harry Jaffra
1. Sixto Escobar
2. K.O. Morgan
3. Lou Salica
4. Indian Quintana
5. George Pace
6. Spider Armstrong
7. Henry Hook
8. Baby Yack
9. Johnny King
10. Aurel Toma

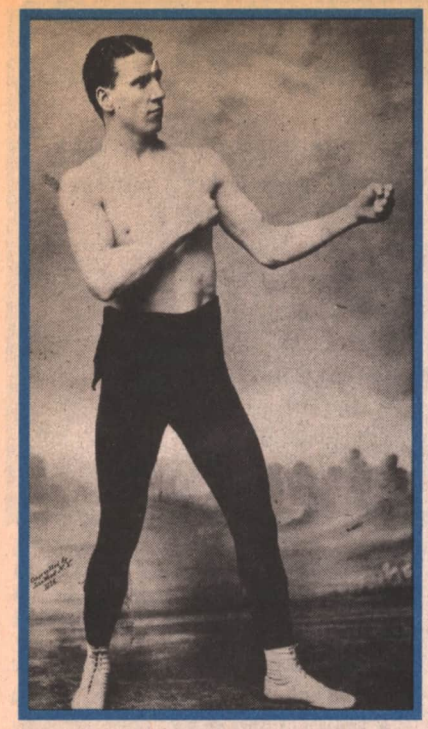
FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Benny Lynch
1. Tiny Bostock
2. Peter Kane
3. Small Montana
4. Jackie Jurich
5. Jim Warnock
6. Ernest Weiss
7. Valentin Angleman
8. Mickey O'Neill
9. Jim Campbell
10. Dick Lewis

sectors to dodge the brass buttons and blue coats of the minions of the law to see him fight; bloody battles that lasted from 20 to 50 rounds; broken knuckles; skin-torn faces; battered noses; puffed-up eyes; men, real he-men, with hearts of oak, the courage of the lion, and muscles of steel, jabbing, blocking, covering up, lashing out with sudden spurts, with hits of dynamite, then backing away cagily.

Fights in filthy, rat-laden, candle-lit cellars; contests on dirty-black coal barges in some out-of-the-way inlet where the cops were thrown off the scent; bar-room brawls only those "in-the-know" were permitted to gain admittance; hurried fights for purses less than preliminary boys get today on a championship card—that's what made ring romance and gave the fans the thrills that grandpa enjoyed in the "good old days" of boxing—the days of Sullivan, Dempsey, and McAuliffe.

Proud, natty, and an impressive dresser—that was Jack McAuliffe. In fistic circles, he was the lightweight champion, the Beau Brummel, the dandy of 'em all. Other than Sullivan and the present Jack Dempsey, there never was a fighter in American history with a more interesting past than McAuliffe. None of them except Sullivan went the clip he did both in and out of the ring.

McAuliffe was more subdued and better gaited than the big 'un, was more polished in his manners, was a witty, authentic talker who could always keep an audience interested, but like Sullivan, he had exactly the same idea about what money was made for and never obstructed its circulation.



Jack Dempsey, "The Nonpareil," was a close friend of McAuliffe, who served as Dempsey's second when he was pummeled by Bob Fitzsimmons in 1891. McAuliffe was considered a "Hoodoo" in boxing circles, because every time he appeared in a fighter's corner, they lost.

He had one vice that Sullivan lacked, and that, as already told, was gambling. He was a reckless gamester, and would take a chance on anything and everything. His limit was all he had and often, a "marker" on top of that. He was as daring and reckless at faro and roulette as he was a horse player, and not even the genial Nat Goodwin, known the length and breadth of America as the kingpin of faro wizards, had anything on McAuliffe.

The last big money that he earned in the ring was when he beat Billy Myers, "The Streator Cyclone," for the lightweight championship of the world in 1892, during the famous New Orleans championship carnival in which George Dixon knocked out Jack Skelly and Jim Corbett ended the career of Sullivan. The day after his fight with Myers, McAuliffe, to show his faith in the man whom he was seconding, John L., bet the entire purse on the Strong Boy.

We talked about Dempsey and we talked about Sullivan—those two ring gladiators being his idols—and of Sullivan this is what McAuliffe said:

"If it weren't for Corbett's kidding, I don't think he would have licked him, as poorly trained as John L. was. Corbett was the first man who dared to kid Sullivan before and during a fight, and that being something new for Sullivan, he just didn't know how to take it and lost his nerve.

"Corbett just got the old boy's goat, something I didn't think anyone could do. By pursuing those methods—which he acquired from Jim Brady, his manager, he had John L. licked before the fight started, yet I bet every cent of my money on my idol and would have had to borrow carfare back to New York were it not for my friend and adviser, Dick Roche.

"When Corbett fought Sullivan, he didn't fight the Sullivan that I knew. That Sullivan would have made hash out of the California bank clerk. The Boston lad was through long before he met Corbett. He knew it, but we couldn't believe that even as bad as he was, there was anyone in the boxing game who could take his measure. That's how much we thought of Sullivan.

"Just think of the many unknowns Sullivan knocked out in his tour of the country! More than 80—some good, some bad, but most of them better trained than was Sullivan, because they were eager to whip him. And when he fought Corbett, he tried to do against that clever fighter what he did against those 80 or more other opponents in his one-night stands—he tried to chase Corbett instead of making him come to him as I pleaded.

"He was bent on annihilating Corbett as he had done to others, but he failed to realize that in Gentleman Jim, he had a well-trained athlete, fit as a fiddle, rarin' to go, and the championship bee in his bonnet. I knew that Sullivan's legs would go back on him in a few rounds, but he couldn't believe it and that's what happened.

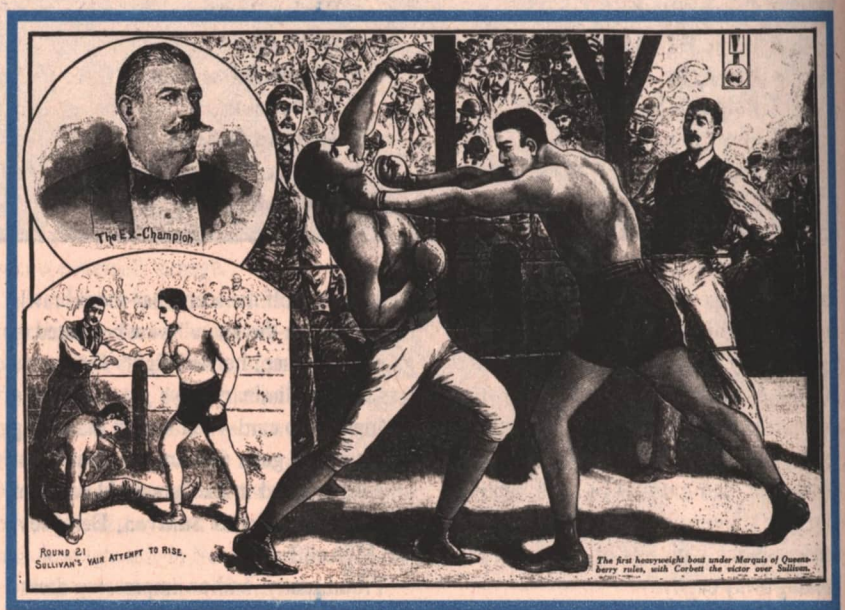
"I've often wondered how he was able to stand up against that Corbett bombardment of jabs and hooks for 23 rounds! When he went down in that packed sawdust and sand ring, the heart of many a Sullivan supporter went out with him. I know mine did.

"I was his pal—his crony—his greatest admirer, and I felt that sting just as much as he did. I worshipped the very ground on which he walked and even in defeat, to me, he was still the 'Champion Of Champions.'"

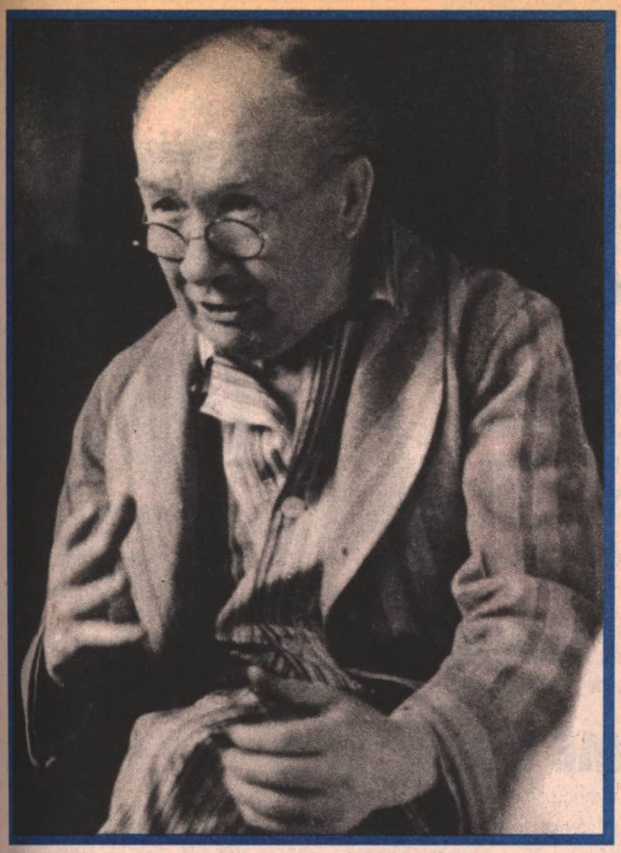
With all of that off his chest, McAuliffe discoursed on his other pal, Nonpareil Jack Dempsey.

"I'll never forget the night of his fight with Fitz," he said. "It was a nightmare, and every so often the scene comes back to me. There was my buddy Jack, sitting in his chair, when into the ring hopped the nimble, freckled Fitz. When he walked to his corner, both Dempsey and I laughed at the big, gawky fellow who looked more like a hayseed than he did a fighter, until he started to strip. Well, to say we were shocked would be putting it mildly.

"As was the case in those days, Fitz came into the ring with his trousers over his trunks and when he started to strip, he bal-



McAuliffe considered John L. Sullivan "The Champion Of Champions," even after his loss to Jim Corbett in 1892. "I worshipped the very ground on which he walked," McAuliffe said of John L. It was sad for McAuliffe to watch the demise of his two "cronies," Nonpareil Dempsey and Sullivan.



After he hung up his gloves, McAuliffe followed a theatrical career. He died on November 5, 1937, at the age of 71.

anced himself on one leg and easily slipped one trouser leg off and then the other. I turned to Dempsey and remarked: 'Jack, I'm afraid you're in for a tough time!'

"Though I always thought that no man his weight existed who could take the measure of Dempsey, this time I realized that the end had come. I never saw a man take a more severe trouncing than did Dempsey that night. As his chief second, I was besieged by my pals to toss in the sponge, but how could I, knowing the greatest middleweight up to Fitz' arrival was the victim?

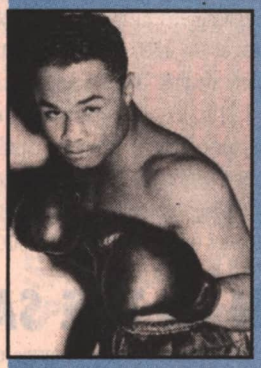
"The saddest shock I experienced in my entire career was the pitiful end of the fighting days of my two cronies—Dempsey and Sullivan. The world will never know the grief that I suffered and that these great men of the prize ring suffered through their respective knockouts."

And now McAuliffe has joined them in Valhalla. His death removes another of the few remaining links between the "Good Old Days" and the present—the days of "Ring Romance" that never again will return. As McAuliffe so often said on the stage, when he presented his monologue, "A fighter had to be a fighter in my days. No stalling—no holding—no hedging—it was fight, fight, fight!"

McAuliffe fairly reveled in the surroundings of a musty past. He snickered at the present day stars because he honestly believed that the majority of the great lightweights and welterweights of his day could have whipped any of the best of the heavyweights today, and if ring records are a criterion, I don't think he was far from wrong. ■

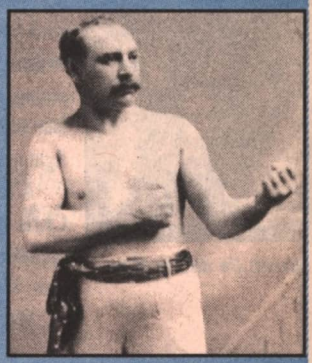
THE RING, January 1938

The Cover: THE RING examines the European threats that heavyweight champion Joe Louis faces in 1938. For the first time in the history of the heavyweight division, Europe produced a pair of viable contenders: Britain's Tommy Farr, and a German who already held a knockout win over Louis, Max Schmeling. "Schmeling has what it takes to beat Louis," wrote Daniel M. Daniel.



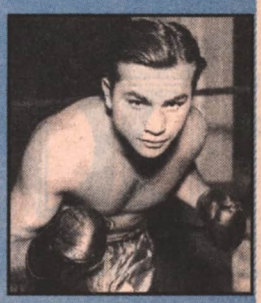
Feathery Buzzsaw: Henry Armstrong, "The Human Buzzsaw," takes the world featherweight title with a sixth-round knockout victory over Petey Sarron. Sarron had been a major contender in the featherweight and lightweight divisions for 12 years, and had never been floored until he met Armstrong. Sarron won the first three rounds, but Armstrong fought back and dropped him with a flurry of punches in the sixth.

Mace In Your Face: THE RING looks back at Jem Mace. Known as "The Gypsy," Mace was recognized as champion of England until his retirement. He won the championship from Sam Hurst in 1861, lost it to Tom King in 1862, and regained the belt when King refused to meet him in a return bout. Mace, who generally weighed around 175-180 pounds, died in 1910.



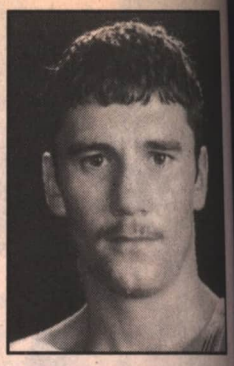
Spurting Ahead: THE RING tabs six young fighters worth watching in the future, including light heavyweight Melio Bettina. Bettina lived up to the promise, becoming champion in February 1939. He then lost the title to Billy Conn six months later. Also included among the potential superstars is Lou Nova, at the time, one of the largest heavyweights to ever step into the ring.

Ross Still The Welter Boss: Reigning welterweight champion Barney Ross begins what would prove to be an eventful 1938. After beginning the year with a pair of knockout wins, Ross suffered his first defeat in almost four years, losing the welterweight crown by decision to Henry Armstrong in May. It would be the last fight of Ross' amazing nine-year career.



LOOKING AHEAD

By Eric Raskin



McCullough: Back in action

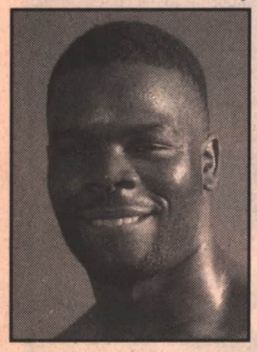
A LOCK ON "THE POCKET ROCKET"

The rumor going around was that former WBC bantamweight champion **Wayne McCullough's** lengthy period of inactivity was due to his perceived unhappiness with **America Presents**, his promoter. America Presents' **Mat Tinley's** response to that allegation: "Yeah, Wayne's so unhappy that he just signed a long-term contract with us."

Indeed, McCullough agreed in late-January to an 11-fight or 30-month deal—whichever comes first—with three of the fights taking place in his native Ireland. Exact dollar figures were not available, but reports are that "The Pocket Rocket" is very happy with the contract.

McCullough, 20-1 (14), hasn't fought since losing to then-WBC super bantam champ **Daniel Zaragoza** on January 11, 1997, but is set for a pair of tuneup bouts on April 17 and May 30. The goal then, according to Tinley, is for McCullough to fight "**Erik Morales** or whoever the champion is over the summer, and he'll get his belt back."

Reports that McCullough backed out of a February fight with Morales are untrue, according to Tinley, who asserted that **Bob Arum** pulled Morales out of the fight. "I'd put money on Wayne against any 118-126 pounder," Tinley said.



Grant: On HBO in May

BIG MEN IN THE SAME BOAT

Though they are on different levels in terms of public perception and proximity to a world title shot, Philadelphia-area heavyweights **Michael Grant** and **Terrance Lewis** had a great deal in common at press time. Both were coming off the biggest wins of their respective careers, as Grant scored a fifth-round stoppage of **David Izon** and Lewis did the exact same to **Darroll Wilson**. Interestingly, Izon's record coming in was 20-2, while Wilson's was an eerily similar 20-1-2, and both came away disputing what they believed to be early stoppages. Both Grant and Lewis are searching for a suitable opponent against whom to take the next step forward, as Grant is set for a May HBO date against an undetermined opponent, while Lewis is looking to fight around the same time. And both have managers who are willing to admit not just any opponent will do.

After insisting that Grant would fight anyone, anytime, co-manager **Bill Cayton** noted one exception. "I would not take **Chris Byrd**, because I don't want my fighters to have to fight a southpaw." Lewis' manager, **Mel Ellis**, also identified one opponent who doesn't fit into his man's plans. "We were approached by **Lawrence Clay-Bey**, but we don't need him right now. We're looking toward a **Lou Savarese**-type guy."

Who isn't?

LISTEN UP

Middleweight **Lonnie Bradley's** future is still uncertain, according to **Bobby Goodman** of **Don King Productions**. "Lonnie never had a detached retina as most people thought," Goodman said. "It was *torn*, and he experienced trauma to the back of the cornea. All the vision has come back peripherally, but there is still a spot in the center. It might need another procedure. As soon as Lonnie Bradley is able to fight, he will go into the ring as [WBO] champion against [interim champion] **Otis Grant**" ... IBF middleweight champion **Bernard Hopkins** mentioned on a Philadelphia sports talk show in early-February that he was looking into a fight with dangerous welterweight **Jose Luis Lopez**. According to Hopkins' lawyer, **Allen Taylor**, HBO's **Lou DiBella** showed interest in such a fight, and discussions with Hopkins' promoter, **Dan Goossen**, are impending. As far as "The Executioner" dropping down to 154 to make the fight happen, Taylor said, "We would have to do what we'd have to do."

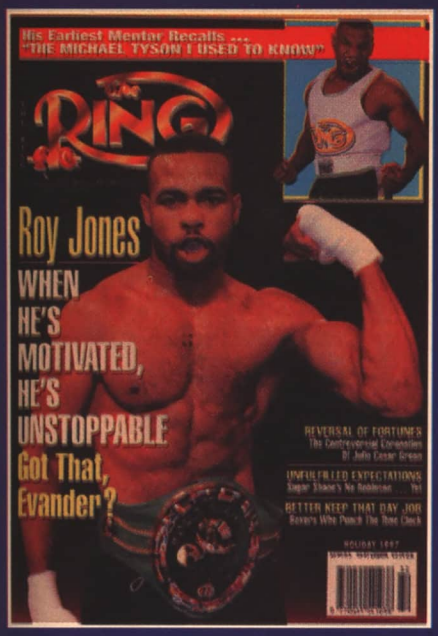
Las Vegas Hilton

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Ike Quartey	Pernell Whitaker	3-2	Very good fight. Can go either way
William Joppy	Keith Holmes	7-5	Both quality fighters. Wouldn't bet against either
Chris Byrd	Hasim Rahman	2-1	Byrd is underrated, Rahman is overrated
Shane Mosley	Arturo Gatti	3-1	Mosley too big and too slick



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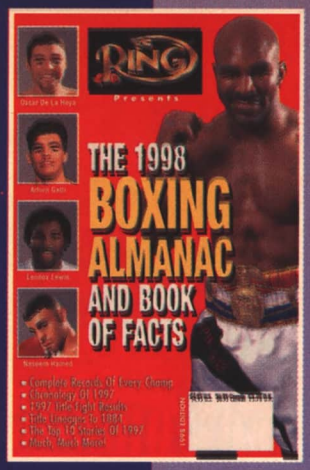

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